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THE TIMES

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Fraud office faces new claim over judge plot

The leaking of court documents is expected to increase controversy about an alleged plot to disrupt the fraud trial from which Asil Nadir fled

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN KORENIA AND ANGELA MACKAY

ASIL Nadir, the fugitive businessman, yesterday launched his carefully orchestrated campaign of leaking documents to support demands for an urgent public enquiry into the investigation surrounding the collapse of the Polly Peck empire.

He did so as his former defence counsel, Anthony Scriven QC, in a separate move, called for an enquiry into an alleged plot to remove both himself and the judge from the case in which Mr Nadir faces 14 charges of fraud.

Mr Scriven published correspondence between himself and the attorney-general that exonerated him and the trial judge, Mr Justice Tucker, from involvement in a suspected conspiracy to pervert the course of justice in the Nadir case. Mr Scriven had asked for the assurance after disclosures on Tuesday in the House

of Commons by Michael Mates MP, who also demanded an enquiry.

Mr Scriven, a former chairman of the Bar Council, said: "Now that Sir Nicholas Lyell has cleared my name, we must examine the origins of those allegations. I believe there should be an enquiry chaired by a High Court judge to examine the circumstances in which the allegation was raised. We must find out who was trying to have the judge and defence removed from the case."

The documents released by associates of Mr Nadir in northern Cyprus included transcripts of a court hearing in chambers at which the alleged plot was discussed. The first two documents produced to *The Times* correspondent and two other British reporters were intended to prove that the Serious Fraud Office deliberately misled the

judge in late 1992 about an alleged police investigation into attempts to sabotage the trial.

The production of the photocopied documents is likely to fuel fresh controversy about the exact source of stories that an alleged £3.5 million shush fund was available to influence the trial. The Nadir camp claims the shush fund story was fabricated in an attempt to smear him and alarm the judge.

Associates of the runaway tycoon have claimed that the SFO wanted to secure the replacement of the judge because he was considered sympathetic. Before the plot allegations were made he had ordered a severe pruning of the many charges originally levelled against Mr Nadir.

One document showed a lawyer for the SFO telling Mr Justice Tucker that there was a probability that officers would wish to interview the judge.

He said he had been obliged to mention the possible questioning of the judge because it might prove relevant to his continuing to preside over the case.

The document, one of those on which Mr Mates's allegations to the Commons was based, was dated November 6, 1992 and contained accompanying evidence which supported its authenticity.

A second document presented in the same way was dated December 15, 1992. It quoted a senior Scotland Yard officer stating that the police had never declared their intention to interview Mr Justice Tucker. He said Scotland Yard had never received evidence that would have justified the questioning of the judge. He also said the allegations (of a shush fund) had put the police in a very difficult position and at the time of his remarks, there was no evidence to support them.

Associates of Mr Nadir said last night that he had chosen to reveal documents because they supported in detail what Mr Mates had said in his resignation statement and

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Mellor hoax

An obscure novelist yesterday apologised to David Mellor, the former heritage secretary, for forging a letter linking him with Asil Nadir and explained how it had come into the hands of the press. He laid much of the blame on one of his friends. In the forged letter, Trevor Timbs had Mr Mellor allegedly thanking Mr Nadir for a donation to the Conservative party.

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Water sport: Trisha Corless, 26, from Staines RC, cools off at Henley

Weekend thrills for armchair sport fans

By JOHN GOODBODY AND BILL FROST

ARMCHAIR sports fans are in for an exhilarating weekend starting early today with the deciding third rugby union Test between the All Blacks and the British Lions and culminating tomorrow with the men's singles final at Wimbledon. Sandwiched between the two events are the women's singles final and the third cricket Test at Trent Bridge between England and Australia.

The men's final at Wimbledon, between Pete Sampras and Jim Courier, will be watched by a record global television audience for any British sports event. At least 110 countries, including China for the first time, will see the match on the Centre Court, for which seats were yesterday being offered at £1,500 on the black market.

Unimpressed by the lure of tennis, cricket or the rowing at Henley on the most glittering Saturday in the domestic sporting calendar, two patriotic fans are travelling 24,000 miles for a day out watching rugby in New Zealand. David Phillips, 45, and Brian Curtis, 60, from Henley-in-Arden, will arrive by air in Auckland in time for breakfast today before watching the British Lions play the All Blacks in the deciding Test.

They decided over a couple of drinks that they would like to go to New Zealand because the Lions had been doing so well. However, their travel firm has been unable to fulfil another request — tickets for the men's finals at Wimbledon, due to begin hours after the pair arrive home tomorrow.

At the other end of the sporting scale, the most glittering prize in British snooker, is up for grabs in the Home Counties today. Twenty yub teams will be vying for the British championship at the Half Moon in Charlwood, Surrey.

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Italian UN soldiers die in Somali gun battle

FROM SAM KILBY IN MOGADISHU

THREE Italian United Nations soldiers were killed yesterday in the biggest battle in Somalia since UN forces stormed a warlord's headquarters three weeks ago.

Two regiments of Italian paratroopers and carabinieri, along with six tanks and up to 20 armoured personnel carriers, were ambushed by Somali militiamen and pinned down along a one-and-a-half mile stretch of road in Mogadishu.

Up to 21 were wounded. The 800 Italian soldiers were backed by 400 Somali policemen as they swept through an area dense with supporters of General Muhammad Farrah Aidid, the fugitive warlord, after Admiral Jonathan Howe, head of the UN operations in Somalia, had ordered an "offensive disarmament".

The dawn raid on homes and a compound owned by Ahmed Douale, an associate of the general, yielded a few small arms, an Italian military spokesman said. But as

the troops and police withdrew, they were ambushed in an orchestrated manoeuvre. The militiamen first used women and children to lure the troops attempted to escape, they were picked off by snipers. The attacks lasted seven hours. A similar tactic was used on June 5 when 24 Pakistanis were killed.

In an effort to escape the bullets, which seemed to come at random, Jeeps and wheeled armoured personnel carriers ran a one-mile gauntlet from

their position on October 21 road, known as Checkpoint Pasta, to safety behind a hill. At least two dozen vehicles bumped to safety on tyres punctured by rifle fire.

Lieutenant Colonel Giovanni Fantini said after the battle: "I was surprised at the Somalis' strength. We have been here six months and have never had a serious incident." The Italians were forced to abandon two permanent positions. Last night Somali militiamen erected barricades along the once-

busy street and claimed they had effectively established General Aidid's control over three square miles of Mogadishu.

□ Bonn: Germany's parliament yesterday approved a government decision to send troops to Somalia, as demanded by the country's supreme court. The vote cleared the final hurdle for Germany's biggest deployment of ground forces abroad since the second world war. The opposition Social Democrats had challenged the move. (Reuters)

Patten criticised by High Court judge

By BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION REPORTER

JOHN Patten, the education secretary, was strongly criticised by a High Court judge yesterday for claiming he was responding to community wishes when granting permission for the first opt-out grammar school.

Mr Justice Tucker said there was fierce local opposition to the move by Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Peartree, but rejected an attempt to quash it by Cumbria

county council on the grounds that consultation procedures had not been correctly followed.

He indicated his displeasure at an education department press release in March, announcing approval of Queen Elizabeth's application to select pupils aged 11 from September, by refusing to award Mr Patten his legal costs.

The minister said in the statement that the scheme had

"the clear backing of governors and the local community". The judge said this was wholly mistaken as Mr Patten had received 55 statutory and 15 non-statutory objections and only one letter of support.

Mr Justice Tucker questioned whether there would have been a legal challenge but for the press release, for which Mr Patten has since apologised.

Comprehensive wins, page 5

1,800 shipyard jobs saved

By A STAFF REPORTER

UP TO 1,800 workers at Swan Hunter, the threatened Tyneside shipyard, will keep their jobs until the end of 1994 at least, following the offer of a government lifeline.

The move has delighted management and unions alike and renewed hope that a buyer for the yard may be found shortly. The defence ministry has agreed with Price Waterhouse, the receiver, that it should complete work on three Royal Navy frigates,

guaranteeing a programme of immediate work and leaving the yard well placed to secure future contracts.

The frigate work may also increase the likelihood of a buyer being found for the yard, since potential buyers would be much more likely to be interested in a working yard with a complete workforce than one lying dormant.

Jobs secure, page 21

'No angel' sex case is sent for review

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE Court of Appeal is to review the sentence given to a man who admitted attempting to have sex with an eight-year-old girl described by the judge as "no angel".

Sir Nicholas Lyell, the attorney-general, referred the case to the court and described the sentence of two years probation given to Karl Gambrell as "unduly lenient".

Remarks by Judge Starforth Hill, QC, at Winchester Crown Court last month provoked severe criticism. Sentencing Gambrell he said: "I have been provided with information which leads me to believe that she was not entirely an angel herself. And you were only 18 at the time."

The family of the girl, now aged 12, welcomed the decision and said they hoped the hearing would clear their daughter's name.

Gambrell, 21, who had been advised that he would be imprisoned for three years for the crime, said the attorney-general should have sacked the judge rather than punish him twice. Gambrell, who is due to begin a course at the University of Wales this autumn, had admitted attempting to have sex with the girl when he was babysitting her three years ago.

Judge Starforth Hill, 71, said he based his decision on social reports which suggested the girl was sexually experienced, having been involved in a children's "sex gang". The family protested that the incident was an innocent game of "doctors and nurses".

The father of the girl said yesterday: "I have not been motivated by revenge. The thing that made us most angry was the judge's remarks, not the sentence or Gambrell. His life has been ruined by the publicity already."

Gambrell, who now lives in the West Country, said: "I am being tried again, this time over the judge's remarks, not for what I did or the sentence he gave me."

Crusade to rescue country homes

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND ALISON ROBERTS

JOHN Major gave his personal backing, at a meeting yesterday, for efforts to preserve Britain's historic houses.

The effects of the recession, the slump in property values and the losses suffered by Lloyd's names have increased the pressures on the 1,450 important country homes still in private hands.

The meeting, attended by Peter Brooke, the national heritage secretary, and leading figures of the conservation movement, discussed ways in which charitable bodies and government agencies could combine to safeguard the future of historic houses put up for sale.

The prime minister impressed the gathering with his knowledge and enthusiasm for doing more to protect outstanding buildings. Policy changes or extra government grants were not raised at the meeting at St James's Palace.

Simon Jenkins, a former editor of *The Times*, and Marcus Binney from SAVE, began with a 30-minute presentation to Mr Major and the prince on the threats to historic houses. This was followed by about 45 minutes of discussion.

It is understood Mr Jenkins emphasised the importance of keeping historic houses in the family ownership, not least because of the cost savings; the role buildings such as Covent Garden and Albert Dock can play in regenerating inner-city areas by acting as magnet for investment and commercial development; and the dangers posed by selling off important military landmarks and famous hospitals to private developers.

Downing Street said that the meeting was in keeping with the prince's practice of bringing people together to work on issues of common concern.

Palace restored, page 8

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The Nadir affair: another curious twist as nostalgic Mates seeks rhyme and reason in Kipling

Writer apologises to Mellor for forgery

By BILL FROST

IN ANOTHER bizarre twist to the Asil Nadir affair, the author of a forged letter aimed at linking David Mellor, the former heritage secretary, to the fugitive financier expressed deep regret yesterday over the embarrassment he had caused.

Trevor Timbs, the manager of a ceramic tile business and an aspirant novelist, apologised to Mr Mellor and gave details of how the forgery — in which the former cabinet minister allegedly thanked Mr Nadir for a donation to the Conservative party — came to be touted around Fleet Street.

While expressing "deep regret" over the publication of the letter, Mr Timbs laid much of the blame on Nic Szeremeta, "a friend" who, he implied, had duped him. In a letter faxed to Mr Mellor's home yesterday morning, Mr Timbs, who lives in Torquay, described how a complex series of events had culminated in Mr Szeremeta, a former journalist and bookmaker, approaching the *Sun* and *Daily Mail* newspapers with the forgery. The *Guardian* yesterday printed the letter, making it

plain that it was bogus. Mr Mellor, who has reported the forgery to police, said: "I am glad that at least it has been cleared up so far as I am concerned. I hope this puts an end to this kind of silly dirty trick of which we see too much these days."

In his letter to the former cabinet minister, Mr Timbs said that he took full responsibility for the forgery.

He went on: "It is a letter totally without foundation, pertinent only to my book (I enclose a copy of the fictional letter to appear in my book

entitled 'The Lady is a Tramp'). The letter to Mr Mellor said Mr Timbs's 'friend expressed interest in the letter and asked to see it. The next day (Sunday) he telephoned twice asking me to fax him the letter. I did and it was the biggest mistake I made, for the next thing I knew he had contacted newspaper reporters in London. 'I showed them the manuscript and the characters, and they went away satisfied that there was no scoop and that the letter was pure fiction.'"

The novelist's version of events was yesterday disputed by Mr Szeremeta. He said: "Trevor suddenly told me that he had this letter that was dynamite. I told him I thought we could make some money out of it through my old contacts in Fleet Street."

"At all times I thought the letter was genuine and I was amazed when all hell broke loose."

John Darby, Mr Timbs's solicitor, said last night that his client was "very chuffed off" over the publication of the bogus letter.



Timbs: laid much of the blame on a "friend"



Outflanked: Mr Mates, pursued by political correspondents, leaves the House of Commons after his speech

Big If as MP goes from bad to verse

By ALAN HAMILTON

MICHAEL Mates escaped the heat of London yesterday to the cooler and calmer backwater of his old West Country school, and to the well-worn lines of Kipling, always a handy catch-all refuge for the Englishman seeking to justify himself.

Mr Mates, who qualifies as an Old Blundellian from having attended Blundell's School at Tiverton, Devon, for nearly five years in the 1940s, was invited back to address prizegiving day. He told reporters waiting at the gate that he had nothing to say about the past two weeks, but was rather more forthcoming to the pupils and parents gathered in the marquee within the grounds.

Betty Boothroyd not being present, no one was going to interrupt him.

"Can I say what a real relief it is to be on my feet without Madam Speaker being present," he told the assembled company. "It is a real pleasure to be away from London and from the frenetic activity of the last week, and back among normal people."

The normal people allowed him to continue without interruption. He urged his audience, chiefly composed of boys, to seek leadership in this changing world and to be given that leadership whether in business, commerce, the church, agriculture or God help them, politics.

He then moved on to reminiscence about his own English lessons at the school in 1947, when he was made to learn various poems by heart. One

"If you can bear to hear the truth you have spoken... If you can fill the unforgetting minute with sixty seconds worth of distance run, yours is the Earth"

of them, inevitably, was Kipling's *If*. Mr Mates said: "And it does not take a genius to realise that during the past two weeks the couplet I have recalled more often than any other is: 'If you can bear to hear the truth you have spoken, twisted by knives to make a trap for fools...'"

He did not finish it but said: "The recalling of that couplet at difficult times can help enormously." Perhaps the reference to "time" in another line was too close to the now infamous "watch" episode for him to continue.

If you can fill the unforgetting minute with sixty seconds worth of distance run, yours is the Earth.

Pupils at the 68,000 a year school and their parents were left, as is the world at large, wondering whether it is Mr Mates, or all those about him, who have lost their Kipling-esque heads.

A report on the risks of horse riding injury (June 21) incorrectly attributed to Dr John Lloyd Parry, medical adviser to the British Horse Society Trials, a comment about the unsympathetic attitude of some orthopaedic surgeons to injured riders. We apologise to Dr Lloyd Parry for any embarrassment the mistake may have caused.

Week ends in a whiff of pigsties, rotten fruit and Tipp-Ex

A sunny Tuesday afternoon is not the best guarantee of a big turn-out in the House of Commons, although being down to speak immediately after questions to the prime minister is a considerable help. So is the fact that you are making a resignation speech. Therefore Michael Mates stood up soon after 3.30 on Tuesday to what can be called, in the time-honoured phrase, a "crowded and expectant House."

Expectant of what? Mr Mates seemed nervous. A quiff of his swept-back, red-tinted hair had become separated from the main party and slipped on to his forehead. Clearly there was something in the air. As with a chemical leak, few could put a name to it, much less decide if this was to be a Chernobyl or a brief discomfort downwind of a pig farm.

We had already come some distance down the road. When Asil Nadir jumped bail and fled to northern Cyprus, leaving behind the fraud charges which followed the collapse of Polly Peck International, the press appeared to have no more than a one-day wonder of a story.

If there was a bigger story, it surely had to do with Mr Nadir and contributions to the Conservatives. Lord

McAlpine, former Tory party treasurer, was wheeled out to say that most party funds were raised by earnest ladies making jam. This sounded comforting, although Mr Nadir made much of his money selling fruit. Even the subsequent resignation of Mr Mates, Minister of State in the Northern Ireland office, on Thursday of last week, lacked the legs to be much of a runner.

All that changed with the Mates speech, which was in the category of sensational if true. The Serious Fraud Office had orchestrated a media campaign against Mr Nadir, summoning the press to each of his arrests: the SFO had exerted improper pressure on the trial judge, Sir Richard Tucker; the police had investigated an attempt to bribe Sir Richard; and the SFO had seized personal documents that Mr Nadir needed for his defence.

All of this was alleged in the course of a half-hour speech that the Speaker, Betty Boothroyd, interrupted nine times on grounds of the material being *sub judice*. Coming in the wake of Nadir's claim that he had fled because he could not be guaranteed a fair trial in Britain, the charges, from a senior backbencher with security expertise, a former chair-

Peter Barnard has had his ear to the ground during a week punctuated by the sound of a slamming stable door

man of the Defence Select Committee, could hardly be ignored. And his target was vulnerable. The six-year-old SFO has been a troubled child. It has had three directors already and on several occasions it has brought high-profile, expensive prosecutions only to lose in court. With Mr Mates up and running, the last thing the SFO needed now was bad publicity. It got more of the last thing it wanted on Wednesday, soon after Sir Nicholas Lyell, the attorney-general, made a statement to the Commons about the Mates allegations.

It was a measured, calm, legalistic statement from a measured, calm, legalistic figure: there had been no improper conduct by the SFO. There was no "tangible or verifiable" evidence of tip-offs to the media, there was no need for the independent enquiry Mr Mates wanted, there had been no tampering with documents. There was an enquiry into an allegation of an attempt to bribe the judge, but this was a police matter.

Surprisingly, Mr Mates was not in Commons. Conservative MPs expressed support for Sir Nicholas and collectively sighed with relief. Mr Mates is not especially popular, so many backbenchers welcomed an opportunity to deflate the balloon.

Then Sir David Steel stood up to ask the A-G a question, the answer to which was that yes, a member of the SFO staff had forged a letter purporting to come from Sir David. The Lib-Dem elder statesman had taken up the case of Nazim Virani, who faces fraud charges over his company Control Securities.

Sir Nicholas told MPs that the letter was "a prank" and a "serious error of judgement". He had earlier told Sir David that it was "an April Fool joke". But Sir David had failed to see the funny side and now joined Mr Mates in calling for an independent investigation into the SFO.

While this was going on, the media awaited the text of letters between Sir Nicholas and Mr Mates on the Nadir affair. There were to be 48 pages and we were to expect

them at 6pm on Wednesday. No, it would be 7pm. No, it would be later in the evening. No, it would be Thursday.

The delay was because law officers were shipping in Tipp-Ex to expunge references that might cause legal problems, although the attorney-general took the precaution of publishing the letters via the House of Commons, thus giving them privilege.

These letters, of which about half were eventually published on Thursday afternoon, added the security services to the list of culprits. Mr Mates had alleged that the security forces of (Greek) Cyprus, Britain and the United States had conspired to bring down Asil Nadir, something that would, in view of

Nadir's huge economic resources, have the effect of destabilising the self-styled Republic of North Cyprus.

A note of a meeting between the attorney-general and Mr Mates on May 10 this year, five days after Nadir fled to Cyprus, quotes the MP as saying that he found Nadir's departure "appalling but not surprising". At another meeting, in December 1992, Mr Mates told Sir Nicholas that there might be "strong political pressure for Mr Nadir to be convicted in order to provide a solution to the problem of northern Cyprus".

By this time Fleet Street night editors were wearing a manic expression, as happens with a running story containing multiple strands. Grenades were appearing all over Whitehall, but it was hard to tell which ones had their pins out.

Late on Thursday night *The Guardian* plopped on to desks around *The Times* with a banner headline naming the one man this story had so far managed without: David Mellor. *The Guardian* had him at the centre of a smear campaign following attempts to circulate a forged letter, in Mr Mellor's name, concerning Tory party donations made by none other than the departed fruit merchant, Asil Nadir. The letter emanated



Boothroyd: stopped Mates nine times

Main players in an unfolding affair

By CHRISTOPHER ELLIOTT

SIR Nicholas Lyell QC, 54, is a former judge who has been an MP for 14 years. He is the senior government law officer, ultimately responsible for the Serious Fraud Office. He has kept such a low profile that his face was virtually unknown outside Parliament.

Anthony Scrivener QC, 57, is Mr Nadir's counsel. He is a former Bar chairman and that rare thing: a radical lawyer with a sense of humour. He met Mr Mates to advise him of his concerns over the handling of the case by the Serious Fraud Office. Counsel for the SFO made a confusing mention of him in court in connection with a plot to pervert the course of justice but Sir Nicholas has written to him to withdraw any such suggestion.

Michael Mates, MP, is 59, and is listed as La-Col Mates in *Who's Who*. Although he has few friends in the House, those that he has are staunch.

even in the face of judgments which cost him his job as Northern Ireland security minister. Since a constituent introduced him to Mr Nadir two years ago he has corresponded regularly with two attorneys-general and pressed his case during a number of phone calls and face-to-face meetings.

Mr Justice Tucker, 62, was to preside over 14 fraud charges against Mr Nadir but found himself at the centre of allegations that there was a plot to bribe him. At one of the pre-trial hearings a senior detective told him there was insufficient evidence even to question him. He does not suffer fools.

Michael Alcock, late forties, is the suspended head of Special Office 2 of the Inland Revenue, the SAS of tax collectors. His team was responsible for those people not domiciled for tax purposes such as Asil Nadir. He is being investigated over allegations that he took bribes from Middle Eastern businessmen, which he denies.

Betty Boothroyd, 63, is Speaker of the House. Like many others, she was concerned when Mr Mates began dropping allegations in his resignation speech. She tried to apply the sub judice rules to his statement but withdrew in the face of his determination to have his say.

George Staple, 52, director of the Serious Fraud Office, is a former litigation partner in a City law firm. A sharp brain but one which has focused mainly on civil litigation.

Mark Rogerson, is a partner in a public relations company that has represented Mr Nadir for the past two years. He is a former presenter of Channel 4's *Business Daily* programme and the constituent who brought Mr Nadir's problems to Mr Mates.

Wyn Jones, 49, is an assistant commissioner of Metropolitan Police, suspended pending an internal enquiry into allegations of the misuse of police vehicles. He has denied impropriety.

New claims in judge plot

Continued from page 1 backed his call for an enquiry into the SFO's conduct. Mr Nadir yesterday postponed a series of interviews with British journalists at which he had pledged his first comments since the Mates speech, claiming variously through different aides to be suffering from either a cold, flu or a 24-hour stomach bug.

The Nadir camp is running the campaign with meticulous planning. It is convinced that by controlling the flow of damaging information about the way his case was conducted, the chances of the British government being forced into holding an enquiry will be maximised.

Mr Scrivener said yesterday he did not believe an enquiry would impinge on the fair conduct of Mr Nadir's trial.

Letters, page 17

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Michael Sams trial

Kidnapper refuses demand to name 'friend' who killed

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE kidnapper Michael Sams yesterday refused repeated courtroom demands to name the friend who he claims killed the teenage prostitute Julie Dart.

In spite of a fierce verbal barrage from the prosecution, which reduced Sams to tears, he insisted that he would not identify the man until he had proved his own innocence of her murder.

For 30 minutes at Nottingham Crown Court he was pressed by Richard Wakerley QC to disclose his friend's identity and to prove that he existed.

At one point the judge, Mr Justice Judge, intervened to warn Sams of his position. "I want you to listen very carefully to this," he said. "If you are not prepared to identify this man in court now, to this jury, they may find it very hard to believe that he exists at all. Are you prepared to name him?" Sams replied: "I understand that, my lord: not at the moment."

Sams, 51, a tool repairer from Sutton on Trent, Nottinghamshire, has denied kidnapping and murdering Dart, 18, from Leeds, in July 1991. He also denies demanding a ransom of £140,000 from West Yorkshire police and attempting to extort £200,000 from British Rail with a threat to derail an express train.

He has admitted kidnapping Stephanie Slater, 26, a Birmingham estate agent, in January 1992 and demanding a £175,000 ransom from her employers.

Sams's inquisition began almost before he had completed giving his evidence-in-chief. John Milmo QC, for the defence, asked a final question: "Are you prepared to name your friend?" Even before Sams's reply — "Not at this moment" — was out, Mr Wakerley was on his feet.

"When will you tell the court, leaning towards Sams across his lectern. Sams stepped back in the witness box and began: "I always said right at the start... I am not

interested in that," Mr Wakerley interjected. "When will you?" Sams replied: "When I have proved I didn't kill Julie Dart."

"When will that be?" the QC demanded. "After the conclusion of this trial," Sams said. "When I feel ready. I have never seen Julie Dart. I didn't kill the girl."

Mr Wakerley accused Sams of playing a game with the jury. "It's not a game," Sams replied. If he had told police the man's identity earlier they would merely have eliminated him from their enquiries, he claimed.

That was why he wrote the so-called facts letter to the police and the media, admitting anonymously that he kidnapped Miss Slater but denying Dart's murder. Sams

"If you are not prepared to identify this man in court now, to this jury, they may find it very hard to believe that he exists at all"

continued: "The police could have said then, 'Come forward, have a word,' like they do with people who know something. But they didn't want to listen to me. No, they went straight on television. The assistant chief constable of West Yorkshire stated his reputation that one man had done these three crimes."

Mr Wakerley said: "The one fact that you say could assist in determining whether you are not guilty of these crimes, including murder, namely the identity of your friend, you are declining to tell us?" Sams said: "I am going to prove my innocence first."

Mr Wakerley then asked Sams about the ransom money for Miss Slater, which the defendant had claimed was paid by his friend. "I

want you to look at the jury and tell them why your friend didn't go back in the ten months between your arrest and when the police dug up the ransom, to recover it himself." "I don't know," Sams said. The QC for the prosecution continued: "The only explanation is that your friend doesn't exist."

Sams said: "That is something that was bound to come out. The psychiatrist at Winslow Green prison said that if I didn't name him soon, I would get problems in the future."

Next Mr Wakerley asked if Sams had ever thought that one of his victims would have to be killed. "I would never have hurt a woman," Sams said. "I would never have hurt a woman," Mr Wakerley asked. Sams said: "I know what you are trying to say, that I hurt Stephanie."

At this point he began to cry. Immediately Mr Wakerley asked: "Why are you crying?" Sams replied that he did not know. Mr Wakerley said: "Were you crying when you put her in a box, were you crying when you told her there were electrodes that would kill her, when you manacled her, when you gagged her?" Sams replied: "No, it was upsetting. It did upset me."

Later the QC asked: "How many friends have you got?" "Not many," said Sams. "And two are kidnappers," asked Mr Wakerley. "Was your friend Michael Benjamin Sams the failure, the cruel man, the brutal killer?" Sams said: "No."

Mr Wakerley asked Sams why he had written the facts letter. Sams answered: "The prison psychiatrist said that I wrote and wrote to work out my guilt feelings, because of what I have done to a woman: not Julie Dart, it was Stephanie."

Mr Wakerley said: "So you invented a friend, a cruel friend, the killer?" Sams answered: "No."

Cross-examination continues on Monday.



Happy landing: Ron Souch and his 1930 Gipsy Moth after flying in from Southampton for the international flying rally at Wroughton

The spirit of Biggles flies again in 1,000 home-made planes

By RONALD FALK

INSPIRED by the creator of Biggles, Captain W.E. Johns, more than 1,000 pilots are turning out to fulfil their ambitions of flying aircraft built by their own hands. The Popular Flying Association is celebrating the hundredth anniversary of the birth of Captain Johns by attracting light aircraft of every shape and style to Wroughton airfield, near Swindon, Wiltshire, for the largest "fly-in" outside America.

Last night pilots turned up in their best leather helmets and oil-spattered goggles to a Biggles Ball. "Quite a few members rather turned their noses up at the Biggles image,

but there's no doubt his books lit a few boyhood fantasies that turned into an adult ambition to fly," one pilot said.

Capt Johns was an early member of the association and edited its magazine. The association has 7,500 members. It guides, inspects and authorises aircraft that people build at home in garages, garden sheds and workshops. There are 900 association planes flying in Britain, from rudimentary types using the wheels of prams and supermarket trolleys, to sleek glass-fibre designs.

The rally, opened by Prince Michael of Kent, ends tomorrow with a final departure. When Wroughton becomes the busiest airfield in Europe.



Boyhood hero: Biggles in action-man pose



Johns: creator of the flying ace and his chums

Lone parents are social problem, says Redwood

By SHERIL GUNN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Redwood, the Welsh secretary, yesterday criticised young women who had babies without any plans to marry or to form a stable relationship. Setting out his vision of Britain, the newest member of the cabinet gave his ideal as the two-adult family caring for their children, "living in a

home of their own and with the prospect of a good second pension when they retire.

In a speech to the Conservative political centre summer school in Cardiff, Mr Redwood criticised absentee fathers who took no responsibility in their children's lives, describing single-parent families as "one of the biggest social problems of our day". He said: "If someone is old

enough to father a child, he should be old enough to help bring it up."

On a recent visit to the city's St Mellons housing estate, where more than half the residents were part of single-parent families, he had asked what role the fathers took in rearing their children. "I was told, 'There aren't many fathers around here.' In that community, people had begun

to accept that babies just happened and there was no presumption in favour of two adults creating a loving family background for their children. It is that which we have to change."

Ministers are studying ways of discouraging young women from becoming pregnant in the hope of jumping the council housing queue. Past attempts have foundered.

Recent figures have driven Peter Lilley, the social security secretary, and Michael Portillo, the chief secretary to the Treasury, to try again.

The number of lone parents is 1.3 million, more than twice the number 20 years ago. The bill for income-related benefits has trebled in real terms since 1979.

Leading article, page 17

Minister reviews mental care

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE health secretary, Virginia Bottomley, last night promised urgent action to improve the care of mentally ill people who are discharged from hospital following two court cases this week involving random killings by patients with schizophrenia.

She said improvements were needed to protect the public as well as the patients themselves but ruled out radical changes to the community care policy.

Her comments came following the case of former mental patient Michael Buchanan, 23, who pleaded guilty at the Old Bailey to the manslaughter of former policeman Frederick Graver, who was

attacked and beaten 17 days after Buchanan was discharged from hospital. Earlier in the week Christopher Clunis was sent to a secure mental hospital after he was convicted of stabbing musician John Zito to death.

Mrs Bottomley said on BBC TV News last night: "We need someone who is responsible for chasing up patients when they fall through the net. That particular person must say I'm the one to find out what has gone wrong."

The health secretary ordered a review of the law governing the care of patients discharged from mental hospital in January following the case of Ben Silcock, the man

who was severely mauled after climbing into the lions cage at London Zoo.

However she told the Commons health select committee two weeks ago that no proposal yet put forward had offered an answer to the problem. A plan for community supervision orders which would require patients to take their drugs and attend for regular checks put forward by the Royal College of Psychiatrists has been strongly criticised by patients groups.

Mrs Bottomley said that she had been moved by the number of families and others caring for people with mental illness who had pressed her to act.

Loud music fan is fined £12,500

A TEENAGE mother who played loud music in her flat at all hours of the day and night was fined £12,500 yesterday. Neighbours could not hear their own television sets above the noise of her record player, Leicester magistrates were told.

Dianne Welfare also played Radio 1 at full volume, sometimes at 1.30am when neighbours woken in their beds could make out what the disc jockeys were saying, Jessica Gill, prosecuting for Leicester City Council, told the court.

The council's noise nuisance team served a noise abatement notice on Miss Welfare, 18, at her flat in Beaumont Leys, Leicester, in February but Miss Gill said that, after further complaints, team members visited the flat ten times between March and May and found that Miss Welfare was continuing to play loud music.

At an earlier hearing she was found guilty on ten counts of causing a noise nuisance in breach of the abatement notice served under the 1990 Environmental Protection Act. The case was adjourned for Miss Welfare to put her side and submit a means enquiry form for magistrates to decide on a financial penalty. She failed to attend yesterday so magistrates imposed the maximum £100 fine for each penalty unit.

They ruled that each offence warranted 25 penalty units out of a possible 50, but imposed that ruling on five out of the ten offences, with no separate penalty for the others. As a result, Miss Welfare was fined £2,500 on each of five offences, £12,500 in all, and ordered to pay £300 costs.

Informal later of the fine at her third-floor flat, she said: "There's no way I will be able to pay that much. This just seems like a joke to me. How I'm supposed to pay that I don't know."

Miss Welfare, unemployed, who has a 15-month-old son, Tristan, added: "What they say about my playing music is not true. Most nights when they said I was playing it was not even in." She said she would appeal against the fine.

Will power helps cut national debt

By JOE JOSEPH

SUDDENLY, after a few precarious weeks of having to defend the source of various generous cash donations, the government can pocket Norman Newbold's cheque for more than £1 million, say "Thank you very much Norman Newbold for helping us out with one of our little difficulties", and have absolutely no fear that the Serious Fraud Office or NI6 will give the matter a thought.

For Mr Newbold, an eccentric, shabbily dressed bachelor from Leicestershire, was that rare and unfathomable species of Briton: a fellow who, having spent his life not going out of his way to give the Inland Revenue more than it deserved from his tax returns has left more than £1 million in his will to Her Majesty's Treasury "for the reduction of the national debt".

Though a generous gesture, it is still, all in all, just a drop in the ocean. Latest figures put the national debt at more than £213 billion. "We get two or three such cases a year," said a Treasury chap, dismissed by the motives for these spurts of generosity, "but this seems to be the largest sum anyone here can recall being left in a will

specifically to pay off the national debt." And so shrewd, since it is exempt from inheritance tax.

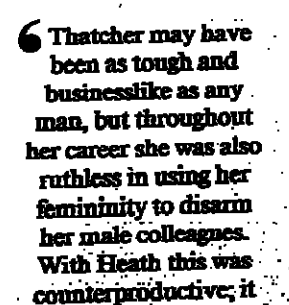
Mr Newbold, who lived in Sileby, where his family once owned a shoe factory, died in his eighties on February 25, leaving an estate valued at £1,055,927 gross, £1,013,971 net. He left £500, his home and effects to personal legacies. A further £1,000 is destined for the Cancer Research Campaign. The balance goes to the Treasury.

"He was a very unusual gentleman," a Sileby acquaintance said. "Anyone who didn't know him might think he was a tramp. He wore a ragged long coat and a Trilby hat."

He was part of the Newbold footwear family, although more recently he made his money dealing in stocks and shares. He had a good eye for the markets, by all accounts. I lived close by him and found him very pleasant. But he looked a bit weird in old age."

Heath and Thatcher: the feud

Thatcher may have been as tough and businesslike as any man, but throughout her career she was also ruthless in using her femininity to disarm her male colleagues. With Heath this was counterproductive; it



only irritated him. Though he was obliged to have her in his government and recognised her competence, her penetrating voice and tendency to talk too much raised his hackles...

From John Campbell's definitive biography of Edward Heath — exclusive extract in The Sunday Times tomorrow

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14 Jul	Cyprus 7/14 Studio	£229/249
14 Jul	Rhodes 7/14 Studio	£189/209
15 Jul	Malta 7/14 Studio	£199/239
16 Jul	Halkidiki 7/14 Studio	£199/219
17 Jul	Majorca 7/14 Flight Only	£139
17 Jul	Tuscany 7 Apts	£249
19 Jul	Corfu 7/14 Studio	£225/249
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19 Jul	Skiathos 14 Studio	£269
20 Jul	Crete 7/14 Studio	£239/269
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12 Jul	Menorca 7/14 Apts	£229/279
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14 Jul	Rhodes 7/14 Studio	£189/209
20 Jul	Crete 7/14 Hotel	£289/329
24 Jul	C. Blanca 7/14 Apts	£279/359
29 Jul	Algarve 7 Flight Only	£169

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12 Jul	Turkey 7/14 Hotel	£199/229
14 Jul	Rhodes 14 Studio	£279
16 Jul	Malta 7/14 Studio	£209/259
19 Jul	Corfu 7 Studio	£279
19 Jul	Menorca 7/14 Hotel	£209/379
19 Jul	Turkey 7/14 Hotel	£199/229
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High Court criticises Patten for misleading claim that community backed change in status

Comprehensive wins fight to select pupils

BY BEN PRESTON
EDUCATION REPORTER

A HIGH Court judge cleared the way yesterday for the first grant-maintained comprehensive to become a grammar school but criticised John Patten, the education secretary, for claiming that the change enjoyed community support.

Mr Justice Tucker rejected a challenge by Cumbria County Council against Mr Patten's decision in March to allow Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, in Penrith, to become selective in the autumn. The authority said that fair consultation procedures had not been followed.

However, he refused to award Mr Patten his legal costs and said that there might have been no resort to court action but for the minister saying in a press release that the scheme had "the clear backing of governors and the local community". The education department said it had no idea of the legal costs.

The judge said Mr Patten

■ The education secretary might have avoided an expensive trip to court but for an over-zealous press release

had received 55 statutory and 15 non-statutory objections and one letter of support. In the press statement, Mr Patten said he was delighted to respond to community wishes, adding: "We must reflect what



Mr Justice Tucker: he refused legal costs

local schools and communities want." The judge said: "If this statement had been made in public meetings in Cumbria, it would have been treated as derisory."

He said Mr Patten was wholly mistaken. It was clear that the overwhelming view, including that of most head teachers and governors in more than 20 feeder primary schools in the area, was opposed to academic selection.

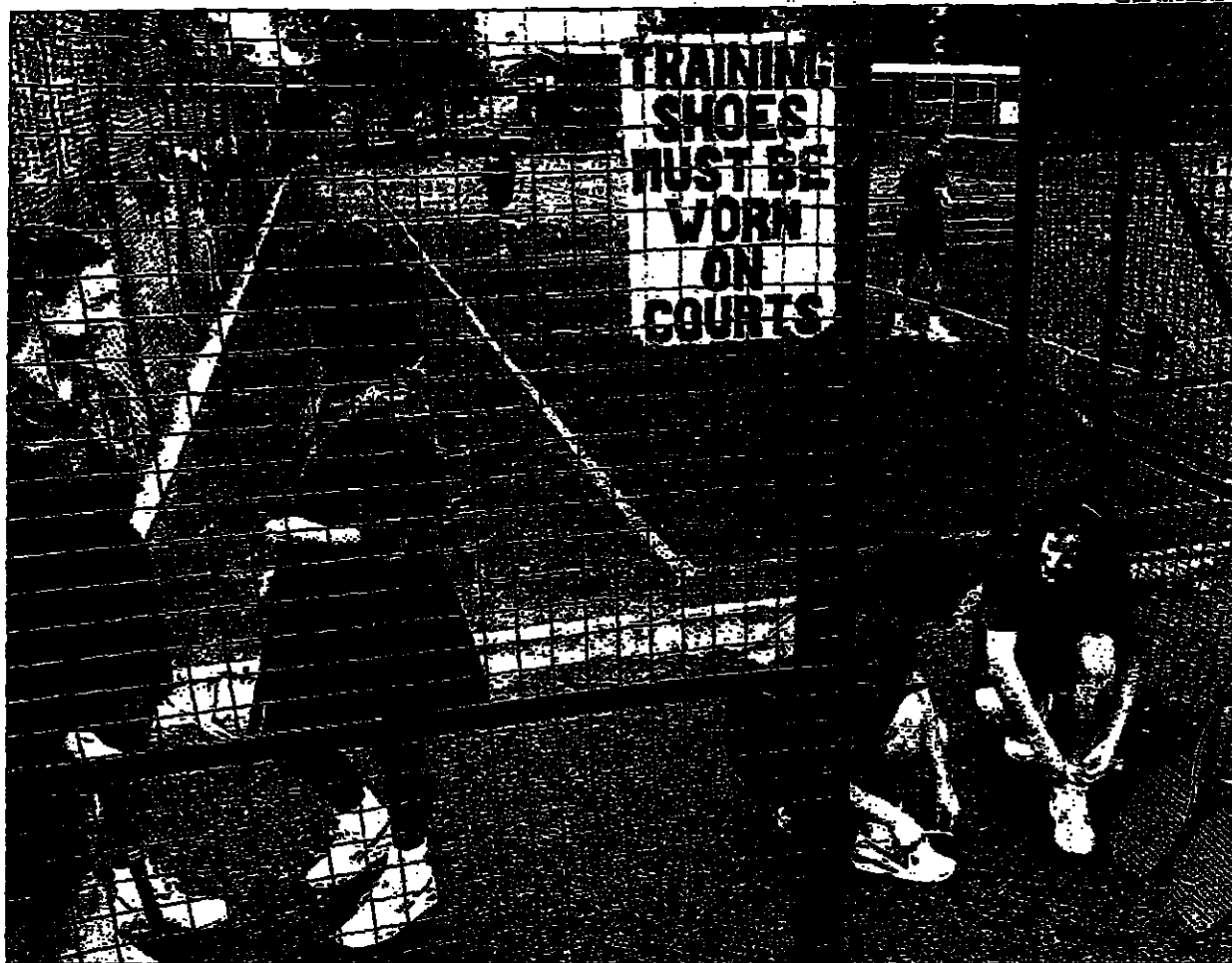
The judge said, however, that a statement made to the court on Mr Patten's behalf now made it plain that he had properly taken account of the local opposition before making his decision and the approval given was "procedurally flawless". Mr Patten had also apologised for the misleading statement.

Nationally, Mr Patten's de-

cision to approve the application by Queen Elizabeth's governors was seen as signalling the revival of selective education and giving opt-out schools more flexibility in the emerging market place.

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said the government's hidden agenda was the return of selective schools. "Next time Mr Patten claims he has parental support for government policy, he will be greeted with hollow laughter."

Nigel De Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, was critical of Queen Elizabeth's decision to admit children on the basis of such variable criteria as interview and evidence of academic achievement. "In the future it would seem to allow selection to be based on accent, home background, whether the face fits" and other subjective criteria, perhaps even whether the parents are likely to contribute to the school fund."



Courting controversy: pupils changing for tennis at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Penrith, yesterday

NEWS IN BRIEF

Heseltine will be fit to work in autumn

Michael Heseltine's doctors confirmed after further tests yesterday that he should be able to resume "a full and active life" this autumn following his mild heart attack. The President of the Board of Trade is expected to be released from the Harley Street clinic in London within the next few days. He will be ordered to follow a regime of exercise and rehabilitation over the summer before he is considered fit to return to work.

The latest, more optimistic, diagnosis looks certain to increase Mr Heseltine's determination to stay in office. Robin Thornton, a spokesman for clinic, said: "The results of the test confirmed the diagnosis of a heart attack and indicated a blockage in part of one of the main arteries which resulted in a small amount of muscle damage in the heart." Any need for surgical treatment has been ruled out.

M3 protesters lose case

A High Court judge continued injunctions against protesters disrupting work on the M3 extension through Twyford Down in Hampshire. Mr Justice Allott said he was determined "to put a stop to violence on Twyford Down". The risk would be substantially reduced if demonstrators were prevented from going on the site, he added. The temporary injunctions were granted to the transport department before the full hearing of its claim for permanent court orders.

Funeral violence

Sporadic violence erupted in parts of loyalist west Belfast after the funeral of Brian McCallum, a member of the outlawed Ulster Volunteer Force who was killed by his own grenade. Police said that at least ten vehicles were set on fire by youths after the funeral, which was attended by several thousand people.

Salmonella spreads

The outbreak of salmonella which affected a doctor, two nurses and 11 patients at the Royal Hampshire County Hospital in Winchester has spread. A woman aged 95 is among the latest cases at St Paul's Hospital in the city. Food preparation at the RHCH, which supplies St Paul's, is thought to have caused the outbreak.

Body Shop denies 'lies'



Anita Roddick, managing director of Body Shop, denied that the company's high-profile stance on animal testing was largely composed of untruths and half-truths. "We have never lied," she told Richard Rampton QC for Channel Four and Fulcrum Productions, which are being sued for High Court libel damages over a broadcast in the *Dispatches* series in May last year.

Siege man jailed

A distraught farm worker who had failed to persuade his wife to return made himself the target of an armed police siege in an attempt to be killed. But four of five police shots missed. Hove Crown Court jailed Lester Baker, 41, of Dallingington, East Sussex, for three years for setting up the siege at the home of his wife's wheelchair-bound boy friend.

Counter-terror advice

Police and army officers told business leaders at a CBI conference that the IRA's strategy was to detonate "blockbuster" bombs to generate maximum publicity. The talk on IRA tactics included advice on anti-terrorist measures that businesses should take.

The City works on, page 16

Truro wins Times chess

The final of *The Times* British Schools Chess Championship ended in a cliffhanger last night when Truro School defeated Haberdashers' Aske's School, Hertfordshire, by 3½-2½. Third place was taken by Manchester Grammar School, which defeated the Royal Grammar School, Newcastle upon Tyne 4-2. Chess news, page 9

Stick for Queen Mother

The Queen Mother, who is 93 next month, used a walking stick during a 20-minute inspection of troops at Hounslow Cavalry Barracks, west London. She declined the use of an open-topped Land Rover and leant on the horn-handled wooden stick as she chaired to many of the 200 troops of The King's Regiment, on parade to receive new colours.

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MPs drive home their attack over News at Ten

■ The heritage committee rushed out a critical report of ITV's plans for News at Ten. It is likely to be saved, for now

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

MPs stepped up the pressure on the ITV companies yesterday with the publication of a highly critical report condemning their proposals to move News at Ten to an earlier slot.

The Commons heritage committee took the unusual step of rushing out a report on News at Ten, 24 hours after hearing evidence in a heated meeting with ITV chief executives on Thursday morning. The committee said that proposals to replace News at Ten with a 6.30pm or 7pm news programme and a 15-minute bulletin at 11pm were deplorable. It rejected the assertion by Greg Dyke, chief executive of London Weekend Television and chairman of the ITV Association, that such a move was within the ITV companies' powers.

The report stated: "The committee deplores both the proposal to reschedule News at Ten and the evasive and wholly unconvincing manner in which the representatives of ITV sought to justify that proposal at the committee's hearing. It therefore urges the ITV Council unequivocally to reject the proposal to make any change to the time at which News at Ten is shown."

Gerald Kaufman, the committee chairman, said it was imperative to publish the report before Monday's meeting of the ITV Council, which will discuss the proposed changes. "If the ITV companies try to revive these plans later, we will be just as vigilant."

The ITV companies believe they will attract more viewers

and advertisers by bringing forward the evening news. It would enable them to show uninterrupted films and dramas after the 9pm family viewing watershed.

The Independent Television Commission (ITC), which regulates and licences ITV, is attempting to block the change and has warned the ITV companies that it believes it to be illegal. Both the prime minister and John Smith, the Labour leader, have written to the chairman of the commission opposing the move.

The heritage committee report disclosed yesterday that the commission had provided it with evidence that LWT had made a commitment to showing the main evening news at 10pm in its licence application. Seven other ITV companies gave similar commitments.

The committee concluded: "Any move to change the timing of News at Ten, only six months after the licences came into operation, would certainly be a breach of the spirit of such an undertaking."

ITV issued a terse statement yesterday in response to the report: "We note with interest the committee's views which will form part of the discussions on Monday." It now appears certain that the ITV Council will decide not to pursue the plans immediately when it meets on Monday.

The television companies have been surprised by the strength of parliamentary opposition to their plans. Although they are determined to reintroduce the proposals at a later stage, they will now proceed with extreme caution. Some of the companies which want to change the rules governing the ownership of television companies will be reluctant to alienate MPs.

The issue will be raised in the Commons in an adjournment debate and by an oral question in the Lords next week. A 10-minute rule bill aimed at amending the 1990 Broadcasting Act to empower the ITC to force the companies to show News at Ten at 10pm is planned later this month.



Kaufman: revival of plans will be resisted

Television, Weekend section, pages 16, 17

Eight in ten students are in debt

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

EIGHT out of ten students will end the academic year in debt, according to a bank survey published today, which suggests that undergraduates now consider a financial struggle part of the learning experience.

Interviews with 3,000 students in 12 universities show that the level of student debt has risen by 22 per cent in a year. This year's average overdraft will reach £1,672. Barclays Bank's second student survey shows that undergraduates expect to owe an average of £1,900 by the time they complete their courses, compared with £1,765 last year. The bank's report predicts that a growing number will still be paying for their education in ten years' time.

"Student debt is increasing, as predicted by the first survey," the report says. "It is a gradual process. Nonetheless, the rate of increase is dramatically higher than the rate of inflation. Students are still angry, but they are becoming resigned to debt."

Student grants have been frozen since 1990, but government loans have increased the amount of state support available. However, student unions and citizens' advice bureaux have reported rising levels of poverty since welfare benefits, including housing subsidies, were withdrawn.

The survey shows that an initial resistance to loans is not shared by new students. Almost half now take advantage of the scheme, although parents remain the main source of income for 25 per cent of university students. Barclays expects nine out of ten students to take loans by 1998.

Male undergraduates are more heavily in debt than females, but the gap has closed over the past year.

Flawed courses to go ahead

BY BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION REPORTER

SCHOOLS will have to introduce a discredited technology curriculum after John Patten, the education secretary, announced a one-year delay in its replacement yesterday.

The decision means schools will be required legally to implement the first compulsory technology lessons for 14 to 16-year-olds in September even though ministers have decided to scrap the curriculum as flawed. Critics attacked the muddle as symptomatic of the confusion wrought by ill-considered government reform.

The gradual introduction of technology into schools as part of the national curriculum started in 1990 and was seen by ministers as vital to Britain's economic future. The curriculum attracted widespread criticism for its lack of rigour and last summer Mr Patten decided to withdraw it. Yesterday, Mr Patten accepted advice from the National Curriculum Council that its replacement should be delayed until September 1995 for five to 14-year-olds and the following year for older pupils. In the meantime, schools will be required to start teaching the original version to older pupils.

Doig McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said: "Why is Mr Patten insisting schools go ahead with the curriculum if it is not good enough? This means chaos for teachers. Schools simply do not have the money to re-equip themselves from one year to the next."

Mr Patten also announced there would be no national technology tests for 14-year-olds next summer. He said ministers would make decisions about the new technology curriculum in the autumn.



Finishing touches: foreman gilder Glenn Weedon applying gold leaf to the ceiling of the Great Watching Chamber at Hampton Court

Palace is restored to glory

BY ALAN HAMILTON

THE Great Watching Chamber of Hampton Court Palace, one of the few remaining state apartments of Henry VIII, reopens to the public on Monday after several months' restoration work. The project, by specialist London restorers Hare and Humphries, will return one of the oldest surviving parts of the palace to its original Tudor glory.

The ceiling looks down on the room which opens off the Great Hall, once occupied by Henry's personal bodyguard, the Yeomen of the Guard. Two further small apartments, the Pages' Chamber and the King's Garderobe, are being opened to the public for the first time.

Since the fire-damaged Wren apartments were re-opened last year, after one of the largest restoration projects of its kind to be undertaken in Britain, Hampton Court has seen a 20 per cent increase in admissions. Up to April 1993, more than 596,000 people toured the palace and a further 500,000 visited the gardens.

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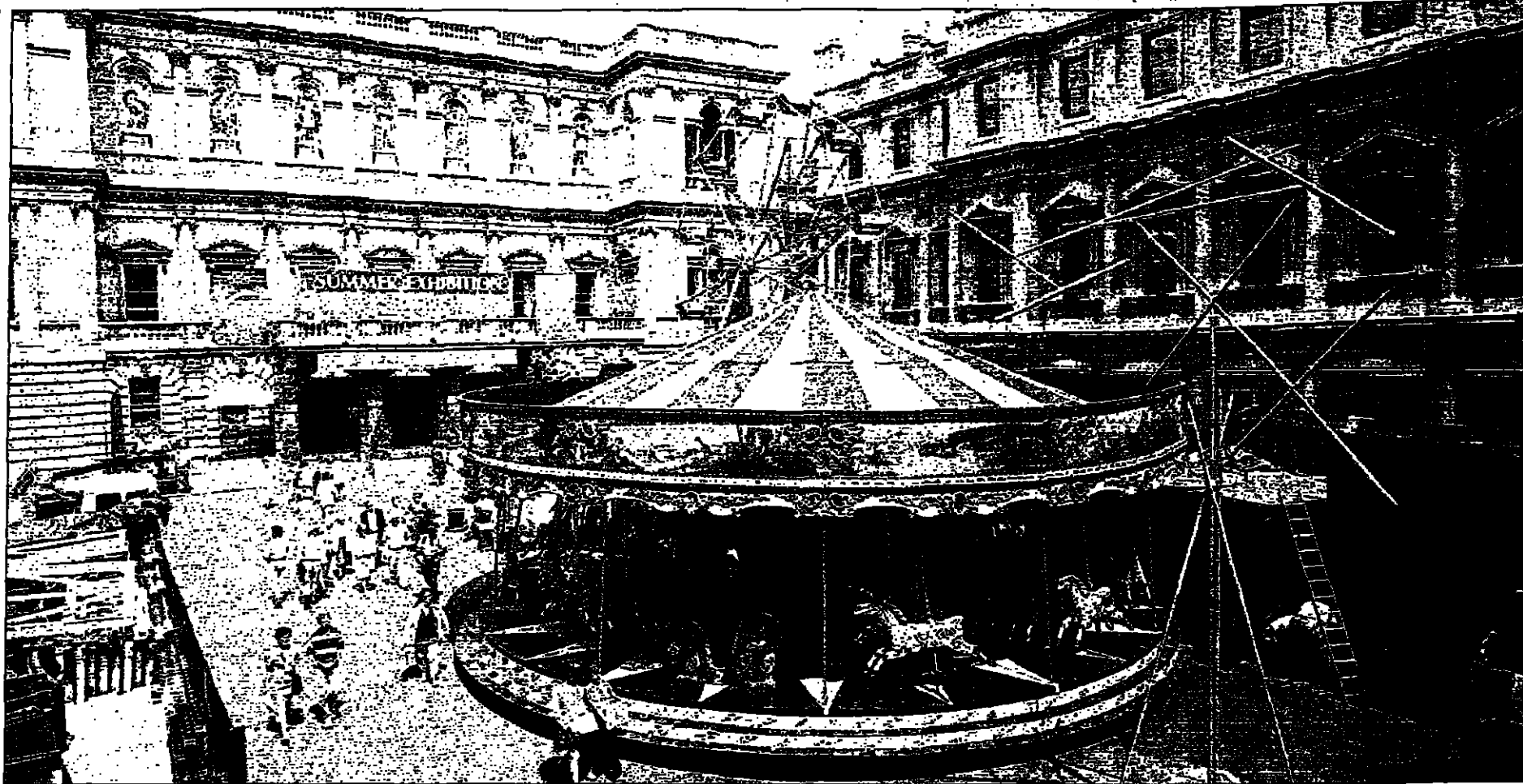
Refugee killed on rail track

A CROATIAN soldier was on his way to Britain yesterday to visit his refugee wife, unaware that she had died in a rail accident.

Anika Matijevic, who fled Croatia six months ago, was hit by a train as she tried to cross the line at Steeton station, near Keighley, West Yorkshire, an inquest was told. The 43-year-old hairdresser pressed herself against the platform but could not avoid the train, travelling at 70 mph.

James Turnbull, the West Yorkshire coroner, said her death was "another peripheral tragedy" of the Yugoslavian war. She did not speak English so could not understand warnings or the signs showing the way out.

Mr Turnbull said her husband would be contacted before his arrival this weekend and told of his wife's death "in the best and kindest way possible". The inquest was adjourned pending further enquiries.



Fair impressions: a carousel of horses, part of Bouton's fair, revolves in the courtyard of the Royal Academy of Arts in London, as part of a three-week festival designed to complement the exhibition of Camille Pissarro's paintings, which opened yesterday and runs until October 10. Events begin today with a programme of dance, music, drama, poetry and live art

Historic houses gain new champion

Major backs heritage fight

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND ALISON ROBERTS

JOHN Major emerged yesterday as an unlikely champion of the movement to preserve Britain's historic houses after a private meeting with the Prince of Wales and heritage groups at St James's Palace in London.

Leading conservationists said they had been impressed by the prime minister's knowledge of the subject and his enthusiasm for safeguarding a key part of the national landscape. His interest may have been stimulated by his retreats to Chequers, a red-brick Tudor mansion dating from 1565 and surrounded by 1,000 acres of farmland and woodland. Norma Major is writing a history of Chequers.

One participant at yesterday's meeting said: "The prime minister was extremely forthcoming and well informed and very positive and constructive."

Over the past 20 years, the number of historic houses owned and occupied by a private family has fallen from 2,000 to 1,450. Those that are sold may be turned into country hotels or broken up and converted into flats, often without regard to historic features. Among the issues discussed was a system of "crisis manage-

ment" to be triggered when an important building is put on sale. Participants debated how government bodies and charitable groups could unite to protect such buildings against unsuitable redevelopment or neglect and decay.

The meeting, attended by about 16 people, including Peter Brooke, the national heritage secretary, followed a gathering at Sandringham of leading conservationists at the prompting of the Prince of Wales, who is a patron of many bodies working in this field and is leading appeals for the restoration of Bath Abbey and Salisbury cathedral spire. The prince, who was seeking better co-ordination of conservation efforts, offered to arrange the meeting with Mr Major.

Simon Jenkins, former editor of *The Times*, and Marcus Binney, of *Save*, led the meeting with a presentation on the threats to historic houses. This was followed by a 45-minute discussion.

It is understood that Mr Jenkins emphasised the importance of keeping historic houses in family ownership, not least because of the cost savings; the role areas such as Covent Garden and Royal Albert Dock can play in regenerating inner-city areas by attracting investment and commercial development; and the

dangers posed by selling important military landmarks and famous hospitals to private developers.

Downing Street said that the meeting was in tune with the Prince of Wales's practice of bringing together people who do not always have the opportunity to work together on issues of common concern. Those present included Jocelyn Stevens, the chairman of English Heritage, Jenny Page, its chief executive, Lord Rothschild, the chairman of the National Heritage Memorial Fund, Georgina Naylor, its director, Lord Shelburne, the chairman of the Historic Houses Association, Lord Chorley, the chairman of the National Trust, and Angus Stirling, its director general.

At the meeting, Kit Martin, an innovative restorer of historic houses, was cited as having provided an example of how conservation can be done within the private sector. Mr Martin converts country seats into smaller homes, preserving their character by keeping period features intact.

Lord Shelburne said: "Everybody who was at the meeting has a common interest in trying to find ways, in a changing society, to secure the built heritage for the future."

Married Catholic priests celebrate illegal masses

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

MARRIED Roman Catholic priests have been taking part in illicit masses for years, it has been disclosed.

The laicised priests, who left the ministry to marry, have urged caution on Catholic bishops over their reception of dissident Anglican clergy. The men, who are barred from celebrating mass but can never be deprived of holy orders, are among many Catholics who object to the prospect of an influx of married Anglican clergy, after the Church of England's decision to ordain women priests.

Some members of the support group *Advent*, which has been shown taking part in an illegal mass on BBC's *Peepshow* on Monday, Raymond Kennedy, a married former missionary who led the eucharist, was this week given notice by the charity Concern Universal, who paid him as a part-time consultant.

In *The Universe*, the Catholic weekly, Mr Kennedy said:

"Enforcing the law of celibacy to the detriment of people being able to participate in the liturgy can not be seen as being according to the mind of God."

Aloysius Donnelly, executive director of Concern Universal, said: "His contract was due to finish in January. We terminated it on a month's notice. The reasons were confidential. It is not because he celebrated this illegal mass."

Francis Pimentel-Pinto, a former member of the Salesian religious congregation, said the *Advent* meetings and masses had been taking place since 1969. "The masses do not have open approval but the hierarchy has known about it since they began and some bishops have been very helpful. The laity who are scandalised need to be given notice by the charity Concern Universal, who paid him as a part-time consultant."

In a statement yesterday, *Advent* said married Catholic priests had become "truly the

untouchables of the Catholic church", not even allowed to perform the most basic tasks of a layman. However, the Catholic church is generous in its charity to the "large numbers of clergy from the Church of England expressing an interest in becoming priests within the Roman Catholic tradition".

Advent said: "Should many Anglican clergy be ordained as priests we will soon have married Catholic priests ministering to married Catholic priests and possibly even refusing them admittance to the eucharist."

Father Peter Verity, spokesman for the Catholic church in England and Wales, said: "The masses are valid because once a man is ordained a priest, he is always a priest. But they are illegal because they are breaking church law." He conceded there were no real penalties. "What can they do? They cannot put them in jail."

RAF jet hit helicopter at 400ft

The RAF Tornado jet that collided with a civilian helicopter over the Lake District last week, killing the helicopter's two-man crew, was flying at 400ft.

It suffered severe damage to its nose cone and starboard engine, which the crew had to shut down before landing safely at the BAe airfield at Warton, near Preston.

The Air Accident Investigation Branch said that the Jet Ranger helicopter on a routine inspection of an oil pipeline near Kendal was flying straight and level when it was hit by the Tornado.

Taxi blockade

About a hundred taxi drivers blockaded the St Mary Street area of Cardiff on Thursday night when a fellow cabbie was arrested after refusing to have three men in his cab who were eating chips.

Coach crash

A coach carrying 47 children from Medway school, Tilehurst, Berkshire, on a day trip to France crashed into the back of a lorry outside Dover and hit three cars.

Back to base

Land Rover is recalling 1,432 of its Discovery and Range Rover models produced between August 10 and September 15, 1992, because of an electrical window switch fault.

Girls abducted

Two 16-year-old girls were bundled into a car by three men at North Petherton, near Taunton, driven away and indecently assaulted.

35 guns stolen

Four men who robbed a gunshop in Ivybridge, Devon, on Thursday took 35 firearms, police said. Peter Bennett, the owner, was hit over the head.

T-shirt verdict

A juror was told by Judge Allardice at Stafford Crown Court that his slogan-bearing T-shirt was inappropriate.

Together

Peter and Rose Tickner, both 18, will celebrate their seventh wedding anniversary today at Danbury, Essex.

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Green Dragon (£179), Hereford. The Royal (£189), Llangollen. The Strand Palace (£189), London. The Blue Rose (£179), Maidon. The Castle & Ball (£189), Marlborough. The Talbot (£189), Oundle. The White Hart (£189), Salisbury. The Crown Hotel (£179), Scarborough. The Saracen's Head (£179), Southwell. The Bedford (£179), Tavistock.

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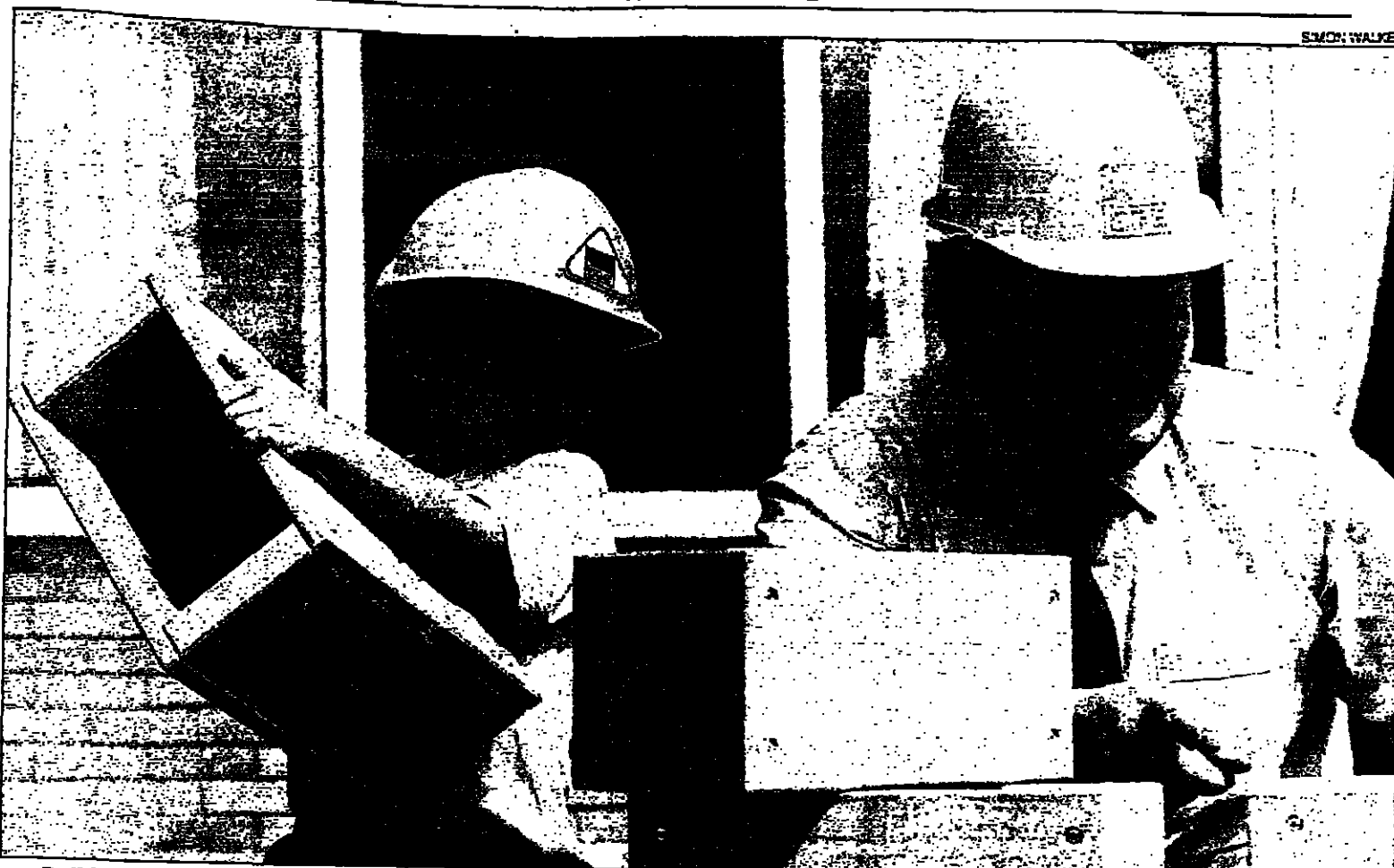
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Building a world that helps young mothers return to work



Building for the future: Lord Strathclyde, the environment under-secretary, with Jonathan Currie, 4, after officially opening a nursery at the Building Research Establishment in Garston, Watford. The nursery will provide daycare for under-fives and a holiday play scheme

THE TIMES WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

A fine tactical duel occurred in the game between Georgiev and Rivas from the tournament in Las Palmas. Black sacrificed no less than four pawns to win a piece on move 30, but White's 31st move proved that he had seen much further and left Black's position helpless.

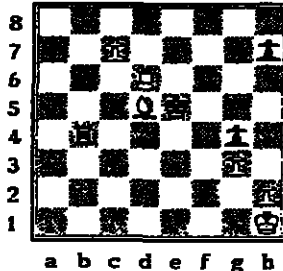
White: Kiril Georgiev
Black: Manuel Rivas

Gran Canaria 1993

Queen's Pawn Opening

1	d4	d5
2	Nf3	Bg4
3	c4	Bx3
4	e3	g5
5	Nc3	Bg7
6	Be2	Nd7
7	Be3	c5
8	chc5	Nxc5
9	Rc1	Nf6
10	O-O	O-O
11	b4	Ne6
12	f4	Rc8
13	Qb3	b6
14	Rf1	Qd7
15	Qa3	Sh6
16	g5	Ob7
17	Bf1	g6
18	Bg2	Od7
19	Ng5	Nd5
20	Nc5	Nd5
21	Rc5	Qg4
22	Qa7	f5
23	Oxe7	Rf8

Diagram for final position



The Papers

The PCA has announced that it is to hold qualifying matches for its own world championship, promising a prize fund of 200,000 dollars and unifying the men's and women's world

titles. Fifty of the world's leading players will be invited to compete in the Netherlands in December Gary Mead, Financial Times.

Young talent

A candidate for future participation in the Times Schools Championship is Calum Cartney of Liverpool. His father Andrew has written in to tell me that Calum, now aged 6, is already a fine player. Calum became interested in chess when he was three years old. Is this a record? I want to hear from more Times readers who have stories of exploits by prodigious young talents.

Championship update

The Savoy Hotel and Simpsons-in-the-Strand, Britain's traditional home of chess have together devised a series of corporate and individual programmes combining fine dining and tickets to the championship. For information call the Savoy Group Priority line on 071 572 5090.

Winning move
Weekend page 18

House market 'will stagnate' after a brief rise in prices

Nationwide reports the largest house price rise of the year. But an analyst says the market will remain depressed for ten years

By RACHEL KELLY, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

NOBODY should buy a house hoping to make money in the next decade, according to a leading housing analyst. "You should buy a house because you need a house to live in, not because it is a good investment," John Wriglesworth, of the City brokers UBS (formerly UBS Phillips & Drew) told the Institute of Housing conference in Harrogate, North Yorkshire.

The only significant house-price rises will be in the next two years, when prices will rise above inflation. But this would be a mini-boom which would not be sustained, Dr Wriglesworth said.

Yesterday, the Nationwide building society reported that house prices rose 1.6 per cent in June compared to May, their largest rise this year, but the Halifax, the larger of the two societies, which has yet to report on prices in June, said that in May prices fell by 1.2 per cent.

"Prices will rise by 7 per cent in 1994 and 5 per cent in 1995, but thereafter I do not believe in a prolonged housing boom," Dr Wriglesworth said. "Prices will rise thereafter at a rate of about 2 or 3 per cent a year, under the rate of inflation, which means house-price falls in real terms. The market will just stagnate. We will never again have the house-price boom of the 1980s."

Dr Wriglesworth said that mini-boom in 1994 and 1995 would not last because much of the extra demand would be a one-off wonder. "The demand is the result of individuals having delayed discretionary purchases over the last four years. Once this demand feeds through, housing demand will fall back to more moderate levels."

The market would stagnate

because attitudes to home ownership had changed, he said. "House price falls have caused misery for millions of people... not least the two million people presently with negative equity. For the 250,000 households that have been repossessed over the last five years, the adverse risks of homeownership have become all too apparent."

The typical buyer in the 1990s would be buying for nesting, not investing, Dr Wriglesworth said. "He or she will be buying for the inherent utility value of housing, not to make a quick buck. The sharp increase in the average age for the first-time buyer over the last two years proves this attitude." Demographics were against a house-price boom, he said. "The number of people in the 25 to 29-year-old age group will fall over the next ten years, implying that the number of potential first-time buyers will reduce by approximately 30 per cent in the later half of this decade."

Dr Wriglesworth said the government should be wary of any action which might depress the housing market. "If the government imposes tax disincentives by abolishing Miras or credit controls, in an effort to dampen housing demand, it runs the risk of creating another housing recession, with yet more house-price falls as a consequence."

The government should not misinterpret what might seem at first to be strong recovery in the housing market, he said. "For the government to attack homeownership is very risky and unwise." The government should promote the growth of the private rented sector.

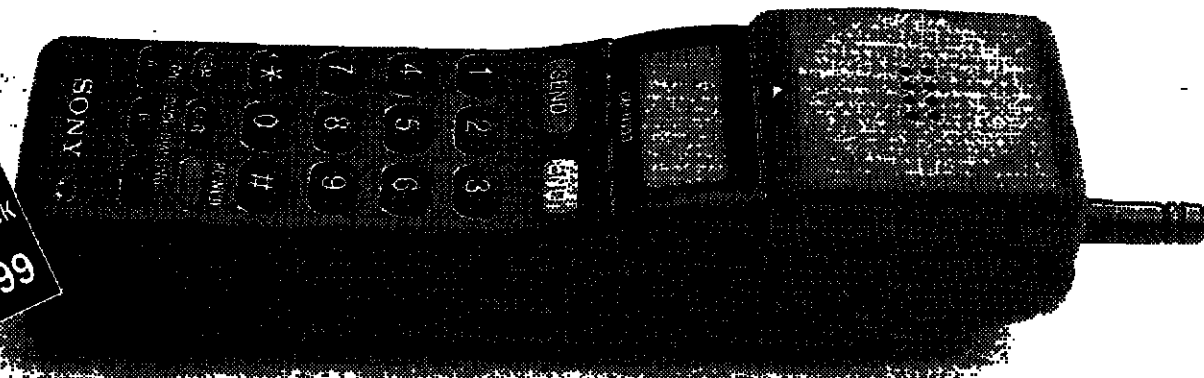
Property
Weekend section, page 12

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Roller

Merseyside and much of Scotland want to be classed among the poorest regions in Europe

EC offers hope of escape from poverty

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH
AND RONALD FAIR

MERSEYSIDE and the Highlands and islands of Scotland see no shame in seeking to be classed among the poorest regions of Europe.

The two areas are very different, but both are desperately in need of the multi-million-pound subsidies that would go with the European Community's so-called objective one status.

If the vote in Brussels last night went in its favour, the Highlands and Islands will receive £250 million from EC funds over the next six years, which will be topped up with money from the UK.

The money will be used to build a University of the Highlands and upgrade the transport system. By the end of the decade all the single-track roads in the Highlands could be replaced.

Crofters are also likely to benefit from the money, which could be used to help them diversify their skills and en-

■ The Foreign Office is fighting for an increased share of EC subsidies. Liverpool and the Highlands may get up to £2 billion

courage them to use environmentally friendly farming techniques.

The region represents half the land mass of Scotland but is one of the most sparsely populated areas of Europe, with only 9 people per square kilometre. Jonathan Poore, of Highlands and Islands Enterprise, said: "Land here is very poor and transport is difficult. People end up moving away to find work elsewhere."

"It is becoming a vast wilderness. We want to use the money to develop the area and to give something back to Europe. We are good Europeans."

The money will be doubling of EC finance for the area. Previously it received £240 million over 15 years. A working group will draw up a list of projects for EC approval,

which will be ready by the end of October. The money will be available from next January.

Merseyside is promoted as a region full of potential, offering many advantages to investors, but the reality is that income per head is only 79 per cent of the EC average.

Harry Rimmer, leader of Liverpool city council, said it was sad to be numbered among the poorer areas of Europe but objective one status would be of great value.

"Six years ago, the EC review said we had income 90 per cent of the European average," he said. "Last September it had dropped to 79 per cent, and possibly it is even lower down the league table by now. The most important result of objective one status would be the number of jobs it would create. Mersey-



Island SOS: crofters in the Highlands and islands of Scotland will be among those helped by greater aid from the European Community

side has consistently suffered double the national average of unemployment."

Mr Rimmer said that among the projects badly in need of more funds were the west coast rail links into Liverpool and expansion of Liverpool airport. Links with

Ireland could be improved by a roll-on roll-off ferry at Birkenhead.

For six years Merseyside has had objective two status, which provided £80 million a year for the past two years. How the money was spent was decided by a Merseyside

Integrated Development Organisation, made up of officials from the local authorities, the urban development corporation and other local groups.

Chris Farrow, chief executive of Merseyside Development Corporation, said extra funding would be greatly wel-

comed. "If we do achieve objective one status, this group will have to be strengthened. There are very specific areas where the money can be spent. They have to be of strategic importance: for example projects which upgrade the port facilities, particularly if

they create cohesion with another EC country. "If objective one status doubled the funding now being spent by the development corporation, it would achieve all our objectives," he said.

Leading article, page 17

Tories accused of gerrymandering in Scottish reform

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE government plans to scrap five of Scotland's biggest regional councils and 32 other local authorities in a move that will strengthen Tory-held councils, according to leaked Scottish Office documents.

The proposals were described as gerrymandering by opposition parties. George Leslie, the Scottish National Party's vice-convenor for local government, said: "The Tories can't win fairly at the ballot box in Scotland so they are redrawing the boundaries. This is a political exercise by a Tory party in desperation as their support in Scotland sinks ever lower."

The Scottish Office described the detailed leak, which appeared in *The Scotsman* newspaper, as pure speculation. But the plans for local government reform, which will be published officially this month, look to be more radical than expected.

The main proposal in the leaked document is for the 65 district and regional authorities to be replaced with 28 single-tier authorities.

This would kill off the big four Labour-controlled regional authorities — Strathclyde, Lothian, Central and Tayside. Grampian, where there is no overall political control, is also likely to go. Four regional

authorities, Highland, Fife, Borders, and Dumfries and Galloway, would continue as single-tier authorities. The main cities of Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee and Aberdeen would have their own councils, and the island councils of Orkney, Shetland and the Western Isles would remain intact.

Tory-controlled district councils such as Stirling, and Perth and Kinross, are strengthened under the scheme. Eastwood, part of the constituency of Allan Stewart, the Scottish local government minister, will have its influence increased by the addition of Barrhead.

The government is expected to include the creation of three public water authorities in its reforms. Water privatisation has been opposed by all sides in Scotland.

Jim Wallace, the Liberal Democrats' Scottish leader, said: "If these boundaries prove to be correct, they represent an attempt at outrageous gerrymandering. The vast bulk of the proposals are absurd."

The new councils would vary enormously in size. The Borders would have a population of only 85,000 while Glasgow would have a population of 642,000.

Tom Clarke, shadow Scottish secretary, said: "Instead of a considered reform of local government, what we have is a shabby political exercise designed to manipulate local government on behalf of the minority party, which happens to be in control of the Scottish Office."

Charles Gray, president of the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, said the proposals would be fought. "If accurate, they are an affront to democracy and show a complete disregard for the wishes of those who replied to the consultation papers."



Wallace: vast bulk of proposals are absurd

Off-licence regulars tread a steady path

BY ROBIN YOUNG

THERE is a certain unchanging quality about the average British drinker's trips to the off-licence. The six top selling off-licence brands have not changed at all since 1991.

According to statistics gathered by the Stats MR division of the Nielsen market research company, they are, in descending order of sales, Bell's whisky, Gordon's gin, Smirnoff vodka, The Famous Grouse whisky, Teacher's whisky and Bacardi rum. The top-selling beer for home drinking is Heineken lager, which has overtaken Carlsberg Special Brew for seventh place.

Bell's, with sales estimated to be over £153 million, is comfortably ahead of all competitors. Gordon's is the only other brand believed to sell more than £100 million worth a year, with sales estimated at £103 million, and Bell's sales are about twice those of next best-selling whisky, The Famous Grouse, which

was the only top-six brand to increase sales last year.

The only newcomer to the top ten is Tennent's Super lager, which improved its position in lists prepared by the market researchers for *Checkout* magazine from thirteenth last year to ninth, with sales of £50 million.

The tenth biggest seller is The Claymore "value for money" whisky, which Whyte and Mackay target as a cut-price competitor to retailers' own brands. The national brand leader among take-home ales is still McEwan's Export, though it slid from fourth to sixth.

The light wines scored the highest new entry in the table (Gallo, from California, at 44) while Jacob's Creek from Australia was the third-fastest growing brand, joining the table in fifth-eighth. The two champagnes in the top 100 fell flat. Moët & Chandon slipped ten places to 42, and Lanson eight to 88.



سكندر زليخ

Shoppers cross green products off their list

By NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT
CORRESPONDENT

THE boom in sales of environment-friendly products has been halted by what some claim to be confusion over manufacturers' conflicting green claims.

The recession and disappointing performance have also been blamed for the declining enthusiasm for green consumerism, which is illustrated by the fortunes of Ecover, a firm making environment-friendly cleaners. Its market share has halved in four years, according to an article in *Monitor*, the environmental packaging newsletter.

Also, the Ark range of detergents is to disappear from supermarket shelves soon. It was launched four years ago with endorsements from celebrities such as Paul McCartney.

Its demise comes as a Europe-wide scheme of eco-labelling to give consumers clear facts about the environmental benefits of everything from light bulbs to laundry paper, appears to be in trouble.

■ First came compassion fatigue. Now signs are appearing that the public is growing tired of green consumerism

moil. The government has accused the European Commission and some member states of starving the project of funds and political impetus.

The scheme, the British arm of which was launched this week, has also been criticised by environmentalists and animal welfare groups. They claim the criteria for awarding



Porritt: eco-labelling may increase confusion

labels is too narrow. Eco-labelling allows products to carry a special label if they meet a set of environmental standards. Dishwashers and washing machines should begin to carry the labels soon. Lavatory paper and kitchen towels should be covered by the end of the year.

Jonathon Porritt, former director of Friends of the Earth, said yesterday that the project was unlikely to end consumer confusion. "The Body Shop say they will boycott the scheme... instead of cutting a scythe through consumer confusion, the eco-labelling scheme is likely to continue or exacerbate it," he said.

Dr Elizabeth Nelson, chairman of the UK Eco-labelling Board, described it as a "brilliant scheme for turning environmental concerns into a competitive advantage". The project was designed to cover the whole of the EC, but Dr Nelson disclosed that six coun-

tries — Belgium, Italy, Ireland, Spain, Greece and Portugal — had failed to start the scheme and some were running their own projects.

Tin Yeo, the environment minister, described these member states as laggards. He said: "We hope the commission and some of the other member states... will start to pull their weight."

Yesterday several supermarket chains confirmed the decline of green products, citing the cost and performance of some versus traditional goods. Mike Samuel, environment affairs manager at Sainsbury, said customers perceived so-called green products as "not washing as white". Sainsbury said some green cleaners had proved more costly.

Rosin Oros, campaign director for the Ark Trust, the non-profit organisation making Ark products, said the goods would be available by mail order. She said the wane in green products was only a temporary phase, with the public already becoming interested in the ethics of manufacturers rather than just the chemicals in their products.



Fingertip control: Ben Hollingsworth, a member of the "Shades and Shorts" team, lining up a shot as he puts in some last-minute practice before marbles enthusiasts challenge each other at the British Marbles Championship, being held at the Half Moon pub in Charlwood, Surrey, this weekend

Hotels plagued by bill-dodgers

By ROBIN YOUNG

MORE than a third of small hotels face the persistent problem of guests who try to leave without paying.

The finding was made in research carried out by Dr Martin Gill, lecturer in security management at the Centre for Public Order at the University of Leicester. Nationwide losses are impossible to calculate, Dr Gill says, because many small guest houses and bed-and-breakfast establishments are not registered.

His study, based on questionnaires sent to 900 small hotels and guest houses in six areas of Britain, suggests that two-thirds of attempts to dodge the bill succeed. Dr Gill said the results proved the need for further research to combat this sort of crime.

The most commonly used methods are for guests to make unannounced early departures, or to lie about their intention of returning. One ruse is to leave a bag while claiming to be going to a bank.

When they do not return, the bag is inspected and found to be full of rubbish.

Of 337 respondents to the survey, seven reported that members of staff had been assaulted. A further 33 hotels claimed that staff had been subjected to verbal abuse. A fifth of the hoteliers reported deliberate damage to property. In one case the hotel payphone was sabotaged by being filled with beer.

Towels, lavatory rolls, coat hangers and cutlery were commonly stolen, and though the individual items were not expensive, the cumulative cost of the thefts could be high, the report says, running into hundreds or even thousands of pounds per hotel.

Dr Gill said that most small hotels still took no simple security precautions, such as obtaining car registrations or credit card particulars, to ensure that they knew who their guests were, and that they would be willing or able to pay the bill when it was presented.

A PRIVATE VIEW

A STUDY IN REFINEMENT.

It's wonderfully epitomised in the elegant poise of Gainsborough's famous couple "Mr and Mrs Andrews".

And reflected perfectly in the refined stance of Renault's all-new luxury car.

Safrane.

Which now, with its new broader range, has suddenly become more accessible.

But no less exclusive.

In fact, for a range of executive cars now starting from just £16,295 (unusual in itself) the on board equipment would impress even the most calculating buyer.

The range begins with the RN which has a 135 bhp, 2.0 litre multivalve engine and comes with manual or optional automatic transmission. Standard features include power assisted steering, electric tilt slide sunroof, independent heating controls for both driver and passenger and a 24 watt electronic hi-fi. This has our unique fingertip remote control, so you can operate it without taking your hands off the steering wheel. Other safety features include Bosch ABS braking and side impact protection bars.

With the RT model you get all this and more, including a choice of engines: the 135 bhp 2.0 litre, or a 170 bhp 3.0 litre V6.

The RT starts from £17,395 and has the additional refinement of electric rear windows, a



trip computer, voice synthesizer, variable rate power steering and very wisely, it's own integrated anti-theft system.

Then at the top of the Safrane range we have the ultimate combination of power and electronic luxury; the RXE.

Fitted with the 3.0 litre, V6 engine and electronic 4-speed automatic transmission, this car is very rewarding indeed to drive. Adding sophistication to all that power is a computer controlled suspension system, while inside there are pleasures to be had of another kind.

In addition to all the features described for the RT, the RXE from £25,650 has some very special ones all its own.

The sound system, for example, is boosted to 80 watts and there's the option of a CD player.

All seats are electronically adjustable, with the added refinement of three pre-set driving positions available at the touch of a button. And finally, fully automatic air conditioning with separate controls for driver and passenger is also a standard feature.

For your own private view of the car What Car? magazine voted 'Best Executive Car of 1993' call Freephone 0800 525 150.

To: Renault UK, FREEPOST, PO Box 21, Thame, Oxon OX9 3BR. For more information about the new Safrane by Renault, fill in the coupon or call Renault Freephone 0800 525 150 SATIM 263

Mr/Ms/Miss (please delete) _____ BLACK CAPITALS

Address _____

Town and County _____ Postcode _____

Telephone _____ Age (if under 18) _____

Present car make and model _____ Tick box if your next car may be diesel. ☐

Registration Letter/Month/Year you expect to replace (eg "H") _____ M X Y Y

SAFRANE BY RENAULT

WHAT CAR? CARS OF THE YEAR AWARDS. BEST EXECUTIVE CAR 1993.

Mr & Mrs Andrews by Thomas Gainsborough, (1727-88) National Gallery, London. (Painting not shown to actual scale.) All Safranes now feature an electric tilt/slide sunroof as standard and have a 12-month unlimited mileage warranty with free RAC membership plus an 8-year anti-rust warranty. *On Renault Safrane RT 2.0 V6, £24,650 (incl. VAT, delivery, licence, insurance, etc.). RT 2.0 manual £17,395 (incl. VAT, delivery, licence, insurance, etc.). RT 3.0 V6 £25,650 (incl. VAT, delivery, licence, insurance, etc.). RT 3.0 V6 manual £22,650 (incl. VAT, delivery, licence, insurance, etc.). Excludes Renault V6-injection engine of £395 which covers delivery to the dealer, member plates and security. Models also available with automatic transmission. RT V6 16 valve £24,650 (incl. VAT, delivery, licence, insurance, etc.). RT 3.0 V6 16 valve £25,650 (incl. VAT, delivery, licence, insurance, etc.). 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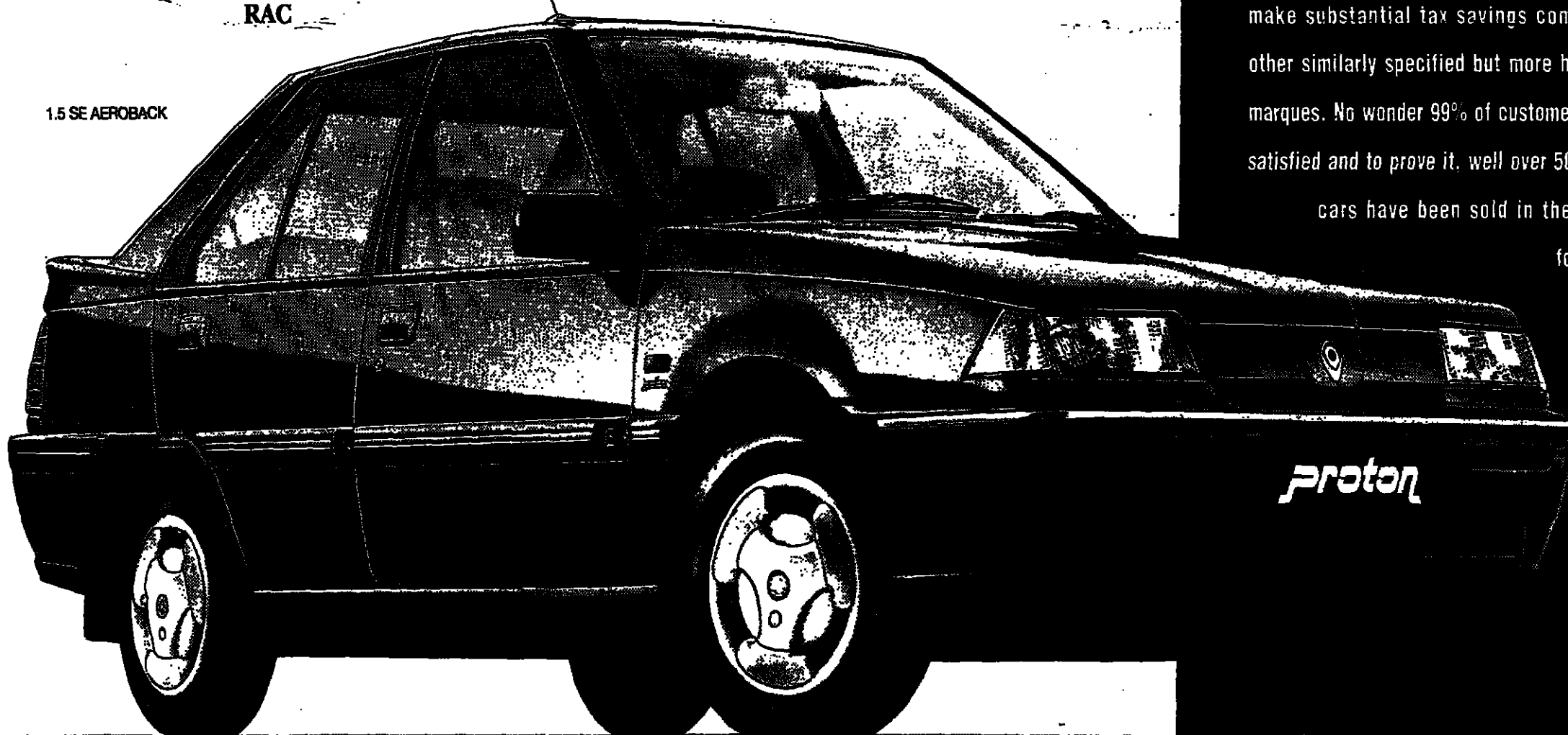
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Hurd will put Hong Kong case to weakened Peking

By JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG AND OUR POLITICAL STAFF

DOUGLAS Hurd, the foreign secretary, will fly to Peking next week to press the British case on Hong Kong, with China in a significantly weaker position than when the original agreement was struck.

Mr Hurd will offer no new proposals but will define the "essentials" in the hope of speeding up progress on the colony's future. The sudden announcement yesterday came after a warning given by Chris Patten, the colony's governor, in London on Thursday that, if necessary, Britain will act alone to implement its democratic reforms.

Mr Hurd will arrive in Peking on Thursday for two days of talks on his way back from the Group of Seven leading industrialised countries' summit in Tokyo.

He said yesterday: "The timing of these negotiations is not unlimited. We want them to concentrate on what is essential and we think it would be useful to draw to the attention of the Chinese at the top level what we regard as essential."

It was Mr Patten's suggestion that Mr Hurd fly to Peking. The governor is convinced, according to an official source here close to the Sino-British negotiations in Peking, "that there had been enough

Shadow team

Peking: China yesterday formally established a 57-member group that is believed to be a shadow government for Hong Kong. The Xinhua news agency reported that the preparatory work subcommittee, set up by parliament, would be headed by Qian Qichen, the foreign minister.

Li Ping, the hardline director who heads the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office, was named the secretary-general. (AFP)

the foreign minister, described by the source as "a sensible and moderate man", and that the time has come to lay out before Mr Qian personally the British bottom line.

British officials feel that China is in a much weaker position than it was in 1982-84, the period of the negotiations leading to the agreement to transfer sovereignty.

That was when Deng Xiaoping, known to be personally guiding the Chinese side from behind the screen, was riding high: his economic reforms looked like transforming China rapidly from backwardness to prosperity, and Mr Deng himself was a vigorous septuagenarian.

Now Mr Deng is an enfeebled, nearly invisible 83-year-old and the economy is reeling. The governor of the central People's Bank has been dismissed and his place taken by Zhu Rongji, the already over-stretched deputy prime minister.

Another bank governor was shot last week for accepting bribes, and a gigantic fraud, the Great Wall Machinery

and Electronic High Technology Industrial Corporation, once praised by national leaders, has been exposed as bilking more than 100,000 investors.

Peasants storm local offices demanding to be paid, and Jiang Zemin, the "core leader", has just delivered a speech describing a party riddled with corruption.

Only a year ago Chinese officials were boasting that the country no longer needed Hong Kong, that its eastern seaboard was now so advanced that it could manage foreign investment and trade without the colony's help. It would be a foolish Chinese leader who said that today.

There is little evidence of a discreet British grovelling to Chinese power. Officials here say that Mr Hurd is going to look Mr Qian in the eye and suggest that Hong Kong's economy — on which China depends — will remain intact only if protected by what Mr Patten refers to as "modest democracy".

Letters, page 17

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bangkok spells out complaint

Bangkok: A new edition of an English dictionary has caused offence in Thailand by describing Bangkok as being well known for its prostitutes.

Thailand will ask the British publishers, Longmans, for the entry to be deleted from its *Dictionary of English Language and Culture*. (AP)

Hard labour

Manila: India has about 100 million child labourers, the highest in the world. Some work in conditions that main them for life, a conference on child labour heard. (AFP)

Oath taken

Phnom Penh: Members of Cambodia's interim government, led by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, swore an oath of allegiance in a Buddhist ceremony at the royal palace. (AFP)

Fast buck

Tokyo: The owner of a construction company has been arrested for giving employees illegal amphetamines worth \$60 instead of back pay, news reports said. (Reuters)



Marking time: Imelda Marcos celebrates her 64th birthday in Manila yesterday where she faces corruption charges brought by the Philippines government

Army chief sets poll deadline for Sharif

FROM JANE MACARTNEY IN ISLAMABAD

GENERAL Abdul Waheed, Pakistan's army chief, has given Mian Nawaz Sharif, the prime minister, two weeks to break the deadlock with President Ishaq Khan or call fresh elections.

The latest political stalemate between the two arch-enemies occurred when Mr Sharif imposed direct rule in Punjab province on Wednesday to try to curb the rebellious local government, whose leaders, allies of the president, have defied the order. General



Sharif imposed direct rule to curb Punjab

Waheed, who heads an army that has ruled Pakistan for much of its 45-year history, presented the prime minister with the virtual ultimatum in a 90-minute meeting late on Thursday, according to a minister who declined to be named. Asked if General Waheed had given the prime minister a schedule in which to end his deadlock with the president, the minister said: "Two weeks at the most." General Waheed has shuttled

between the president and the prime minister five times this week to try to persuade them to end their confrontation that has paralysed the administration for months.

The government of Punjab, the largest and most powerful province, created the embarrassing stand-off with Mr Sharif's government this week when it refused to comply with a resolution passed by an extraordinary joint session of parliament imposing direct rule.

General Waheed met the prime minister after a special evening conference of several corps commanders at army headquarters in Islamabad's twin city of Rawalpindi. "The army is trying to maintain its neutrality," a military spokesman said. "It is up to the government if it wants to hold elections." However, a government source said the army chief had urged Mr Sharif to issue formal advice to the president dissolving the national assembly and calling fresh elections. The alternative could be the imposition of martial law.

Mr Sharif, in a sign he may be backing down in the face of army pressure after running the resolution on direct rule through parliament on Tuesday, decided on Thursday to ask the Supreme Court to give a judgment on the issue.

Mr Sharif has been struggling to reassert his authority in Punjab, once his power base, after his dismissal by President Ishaq Khan on April 18 and subsequent reinstatement by the Supreme Court 39 days later. (Reuters)

Grey-suited samurai fight bloodless bout

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

The televised "debate" between the Japanese prime minister, Kiichi Miyazawa, and four of his opposition party rivals yesterday made riveting viewing. Seated in a straight line and steadfastly avoiding each other's line of vision, the five grey-suited men engaged in a gentlemanly exercise of passing the buck.

Speaking time was strictly limited to five-minute bursts in turn, and there was not a hint of an interruption, no fraying of tempers or pounding of fists. Party lines were dutifully aired and everyone agreed that political reform, the fashionable slogan, was of the utmost importance.

Behaviour was exemplary, apart from one awkward moment when Sadao Yamahana, leader of the Socialist party, called Mr Miyazawa a liar for having failed to deliver on his promise of introducing political reform legislation. Mr Miyazawa stared resolutely into the distance like a music critic trying to understand a Scriabin sonata.

The lack of lively debate may seem odd: the lower house election in two weeks' time promises to be the most closely fought contest in postwar Japanese political history, possibly

ending the Liberal Democrats' 38 uninterrupted years in power. But Japan's political leaders are unfamiliar with ideological debate and the airing of distinctive party policies because they do not form an important part of their election campaigns.

Priority still lies, even for the newly established reformist parties, in drumming up support along the campaign trail with the help of large sums of money. The LDP has asked leading industrial groups for an official donation of 18 billion yen (£110 million) to fill its coffers for the two-week campaign which begins on Monday, and other parties are making more modest requests.

Reluctance of yesterday's party leaders to be drawn on specific policy is also because they are involved in a complex mix of private negotiations, trying to keep their options open for participation in the coalition government that will probably be the result of the election.

Mr Miyazawa said the LDP would not have to step down if it fails to win a simple majority in the 511-seat lower house. "In such a case, the LDP will form a coalition with parties that share its policies."



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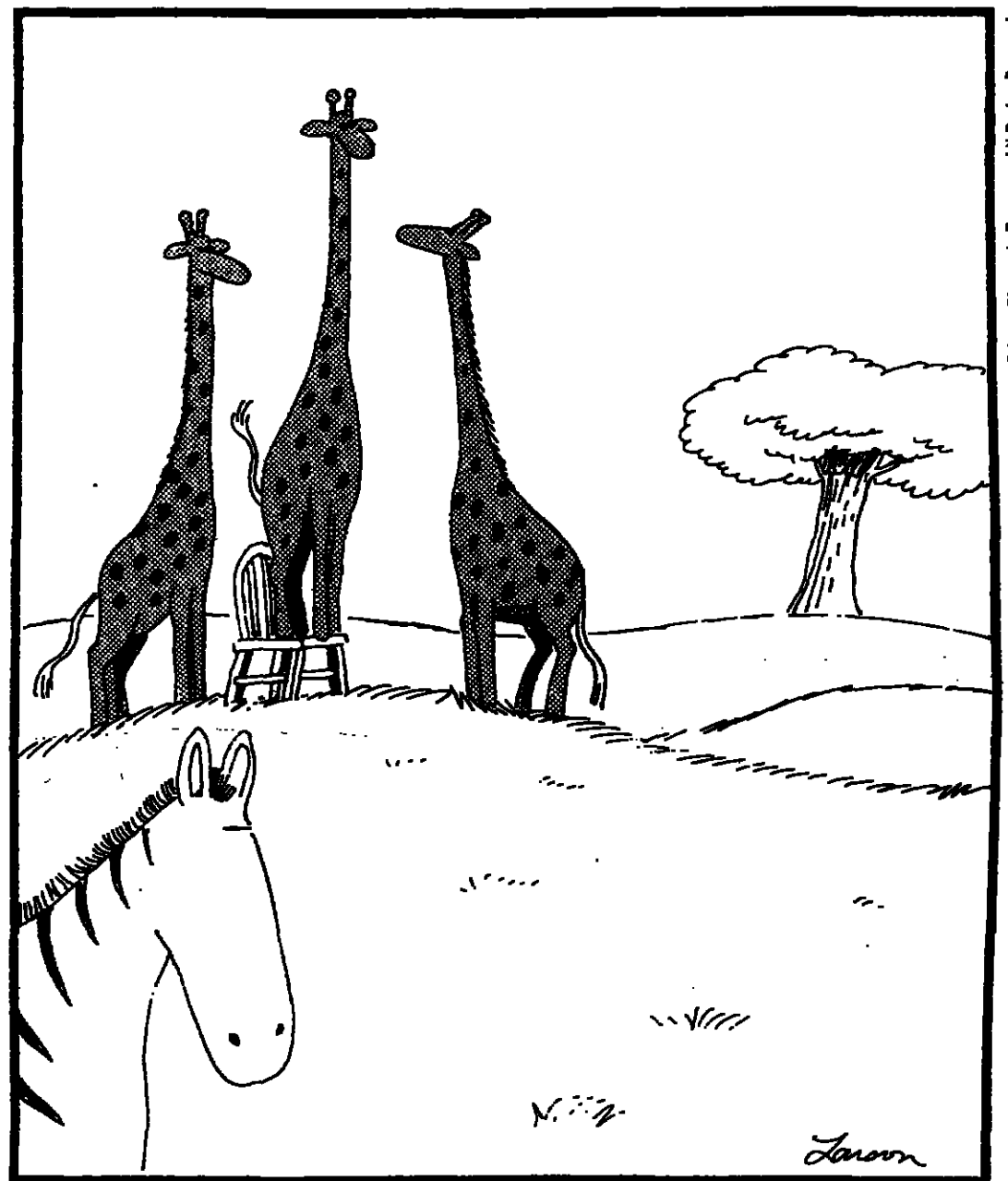
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Inkatha and whites walk out of talks in election date protest

Disputes among the negotiators in South Africa have soured jubilation over agreement on the first non-racial election and taken the shine off President de Klerk's and Nelson Mandela's US visits

FROM MICHAEL HAMILYN IN JOHANNESBURG AND IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

LEADERS of the mainly Zulu Inkatha Freedom Party and the white right-wingers of the Conservative Party stalked out of South Africa's negotiations yesterday in protest at the forcing through by the majority of a polling date for a constituent assembly.

The moves and the debate leading up to it soured the atmosphere of jubilation which marked the agreements earlier in the week on a compromise for constitutional progress. But it was made clear that the process will continue. The argument over the polling date is not likely to derail the talks completely.

Joe Matthews, speaking for Inkatha, said it was only the election date that the party objected to. When talks resume after a two-week break Inkatha will be back to hear discussion on a draft constitution.

The confirmation of the

date, April 27, was declared to have been accepted by "sufficient consensus" after Fravio Gordian, the chairman for the day, called for a show of hands. Only six delegations, all members of Cosas, the Concerned South Africans Group — an unlikely alliance of white right-wingers and self-governing black homelands — voted against.

In causing a near-breakdown of the talks (even though it was only seconds from the official end of the day's proceedings) Cosas took some of the shine off the visit to the United States by President de Klerk and Nelson Mandela, the president of the African National Congress.

But in Washington yesterday, Mr Mandela indicated that he may call for the lifting of all remaining international sanctions against South Africa within three weeks.

Mr Mandela said South Africa was suffering so gravely from unemployment, rising crime and violence that the ANC was thinking of changing its earlier insistence that sanctions must remain in effect until the white-dominated parliament ratifies the election agreement and consents to a transitional executive council which would help to run the country in the run-up to polling day.

President de Klerk, also in Washington, was equally confident that "we are very near the point where sanctions will be lifted".

As South Africa's present and future leaders, Mr de Klerk and Mr Mandela are making odd visits to the United States. While Mr de Klerk is drumming up economic support, Mr Mandela is raising election funds for the ANC.

President Clinton was seeing each man on his own. They will all meet again tomorrow in Philadelphia when the two South Africans are to receive jointly the Liberty Medal, an award presented by a community organisation for their efforts to promote racial reconciliation.

In candid remarks, Mr de

Klerk said South Africa faced ten to 15 years of violence from whites resisting the transfer of power to blacks and blacks seeking revenge for years of indignity at the hands of whites. He expected, though, that the troubles would be confined to a "turbulent fringe" and will not undermine economic stability.

Sanctions continue to be enforced by 29 American states, more than 100 cities and many private institutions. South Africa is still denied loans from the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the US Export-Import Bank — bans that Mr de Klerk is trying to have lifted.

By holding out against an immediate repeal of sanctions, Mr Mandela has added to the urgent necessity of completing negotiations on establishing the transitional executive council. That this is not going to be easily accomplished either was shown by the opposition expressed by a number of groups, including the so-called independent homeland of Bophuthatswana.

Those who opposed confirming the election date spoke of "unseemly haste" in rushing to fix it before anyone was clear exactly what kind of constitution they would be voting under. But Joe Slovo, leader of the South African Communist Party, scoffed that "the indigenous people of this country have been waiting for 350 years" for the opportunity. Not to confirm the date "would send quite the wrong signal to those people".

Roelf Meyer, the minister who leads for the government in the negotiations, enthusiastically endorsed the call for the date to be confirmed. He added his own optimistic note to proceedings when he set a target for the adoption of a transitional constitution of the middle of next month.

Mr Mandela's fiancée, Winnie Mandela, estranged wife of the ANC president, paid the 15,000 rands (£3,000) fine imposed for her kidnapping conviction. An arrest warrant had earlier been issued. (AP)

Survivor of the San Francisco onslaught



Gunman's target: paramedics wheeling an injured woman to an ambulance after Gian Luigi Ferri, 55, walked into the offices of a law firm in San Francisco and opened fire with automatic weapons, killing eight people and wounding six others before committing suicide

Palestine extremist ready for strikes against Israel

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN BAGHDAD

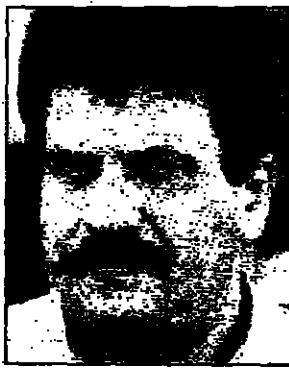
ONE of the world's most notorious Palestinian guerrilla chiefs has issued a warning that he is considering lifting his self-imposed ban on military operations against Israel, unless there is a breakthrough soon in the Middle East peace process.

Abul Abbas, leader of the Palestine Liberation Front, an extremist group based in Baghdad, said in an interview that time was running out for both Israel and America. "We have waited patiently for two years, but our patience is going to finish soon," the veteran guerrilla, speaking from his heavily defended office in a residential neighbourhood in the Iraqi capital, said. "If this situation continues then we will have to reactivate militarily," he said, as the tenth round of the peace talks ended in deadlock between

the Palestinian and Israeli negotiators. "We will have to let the world know that we are here, to make the world remember our cause."

Abul Abbas, 44, came to notoriety in the 1970s and 1980s when his small but well-equipped organisation staged a series of spectacular but often disastrous attacks on Israel, for instance attempting to fly into the country from Lebanon by hang-glider.

In 1985 his men seized the Italian cruise ship *Achille Lauro* in the eastern Mediterranean and killed an elderly American Jewish passenger, Leon Klinghoffer, whose body was dumped overboard. The group's last big operation was three years ago when several speedboats launched a simultaneous attack against the Israeli coast, a move which led Washington to break off its



Abbas: "Our patience is going to finish soon"

dialogue with the PLO. Although a poster of the commander involved in the final operation still adorns the wall of Mr Abbas's office with the caption "There is a limit to our patience — This is our reply", the guerrilla leader, whose tall, imposing frame is now marked by a middle-aged

punch, has all but disappeared from the international limelight.

Like many exiled Palestinian groups, his organisation has been particularly badly affected financially in the aftermath of the Gulf conflict. He insisted that the PLF was today self-financing and had begun its own fund-raising and profit-making schemes, although he refused to disclose them.

"In any case, military operations do not need that much money," he said. "Of course, the attack on the Tel Aviv beach was expensive because we had to buy boats, and so were the hang-gliders. But if you do not use a machine it is cheap. The *Achille Lauro* was cheap, because all we needed to do was buy tickets, first-class, of course."

In spite of his warnings of renewed action, he insisted that there was still a "ray of

hope" that the Clinton administration could alter its policy in the Middle East. He conceded that there were "new rules" to be observed in the post-Gulf war era in the region and that the Palestinians "had to speak to the world in a different language".

Nevertheless, without American intervention he remained doubtful that an agreement could be reached because the left-wing government in Israel was not prepared to make concessions.

"The Israelis still kill many of our people, deport them, blow up their houses and they have given us nothing at the negotiating table," he said. "The only difference from former right-wing prime minister Yitzhak Shamir is that he is shorter than [prime minister Yitzhak] Rabin, and Rabin drinks more than Shamir. Otherwise they are the same Yitzhak."

Bonn pique on D-Day ceremony

Bonn: Germany has denied seeking an invitation to celebrate on the fiftieth anniversary of the allied D-Day landings in France. A spokesman for Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, denied reports from Paris that Bonn was alarmed at the prospect of being left out of the ceremonies next year.

"Do you seriously believe the chancellor places value on taking part in a celebration (of an event) where German soldiers suffered a defeat?" Dieter Vogel said. President Clinton, the Queen, President Mitterrand and five other heads of state are due to attend the ceremonies. (Reuters)

Delors stays

Brussels: Jacques Delors, the European Commission president, who is 68 next month, will miss next week's three-day G7 summit of the world's leading industrial powers in Japan because of continuing back trouble.

Libyans barred

Washington: America has banned 79 Libyan athletes from entering the US to compete in next week's 139-nation World University Games under the embargo imposed on Libya in the wake of the Lockerbie bombing.

Time out

Brussels: In one of the most extravagant gestures of Euro-enthusiasm anybody can recall, the Belgian government is preparing to release almost 500 prisoners to mark the start of its six-month presidency of the EC.

Nigeria ban

Abuja: President Babangida of Nigeria has told traditional rulers that he was proscribing all groups opposed to democracy in order to ease political tension sparked by the cancellation of presidential elections. (Reuters)

Munster dies

Baltimore: Actor Fred Gwynne, who starred as Herman Munster in the ghoulish 1960s television comedy series *The Munsters*, has died of pancreatic cancer at his Maryland home aged 66. (AP)

Jackpot lost

Detroit: The deadline came and went and still nobody claimed the \$18 million (£11.5 million) state lottery jackpot. The winning ticket was sold for the draw on July 1, 1992, but the deadline passed. (AP)

Wanted Muslim cleric 'prepared to surrender'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

SHAIKH Omar Abdel Rahman, the radical Muslim cleric whose followers are accused of two bombing conspiracies in New York, is ready to surrender, his lawyer Barbara Nelson said yesterday. She was making arrangements for the shaikh to give himself up. "Immigration wants him, he might as well surrender. There's no point running away from it."

The FBI refused to comment on reports that he might still be inside the Abu Bakr mosque in Brooklyn, but one source close to the shaikh told the Associated Press news agency that the cleric was

inside the building. Late on Thursday night, the FBI had confirmed that the Egyptian shaikh, 55, who is under a deportation order, would be arrested and detained by the United States Immigration and Naturalisation Service.

The shaikh's followers include several of the men accused of bombing the World Trade Centre last February, and at least six of the eight men suspected of a plot to attack other New York targets. A justice department spokesman said there were no plans to charge the shaikh in connection with either conspiracy. On Thursday night, federal

agents waited at a Brooklyn mosque where the blind shaikh preaches, and saw a man with a beard and a red cap similar to that worn by the shaikh being bundled into a car. The agents, armed with shotguns, immediately surrounded the car and ordered the man to surrender, but he turned out to be an impostor posing as the cleric and was later released.

Federal agents also stalked out the shaikh's flat in Jersey City, but officials yesterday admitted they did not know where he was. One official said police and FBI agents had planned to take the shaikh

into custody on Thursday, but the precise timing of the arrest would depend on whether he was "in a position to be taken".

Over the past week, government officials have debated, sometimes publicly, whether and when to arrest the shaikh, whose fiery rhetoric is believed to have inspired terrorist attacks both in Egypt and America. On Thursday morning, the decision was taken to arrest him by revoking his immigration status, amid fears that he might try to flee. Janet Reno, the attorney-general, has come under increasing pressure to apprehend Shaikh Omar, particularly

after the FBI acknowledged it had evidence that the cleric was aware of the latest plot to blow up several sites around New York City, including the United Nations, the FBI headquarters, and commuter tunnels linking Manhattan and New Jersey.

For the first time since eight suspects in that conspiracy were arrested on June 24, federal investigators believe they have uncovered a foreign link with the plotters. One of the accused has connections with Hamas, the radical Palestinian organisation, a federal prosecutor said at a bail hearing on Thursday.

Computer Hal turns raunchy author (with help)

BY BEN MACINTYRE



Jacqueline Susann: "She would be proud"

GIVE enough monkeys enough typewriters and eventually you will get Shakespeare, give a computer programmer just eight years and you will get a steady pot-boiler which writes itself.

This week Scott French, a computer buff from Silicon Valley, California, published *This Once* — A novel written by a computer programmed to think like the world's best-selling author.

Using a supercharged computer and a program known as "artificial intelligence" which emulates human thought, Mr French and his machine (named Hal) have teased out 255 pages of romantic, raunchy prose. *Just*

This Once took three years longer to write than *War and Peace*, and there any similarity ends. An excerpt "Her heart leapt into her throat and she jumped involuntarily as the stranger appeared in front of her. Then it all came back in a rush."

It may not win many literary prizes, but the book represents a remarkable advance in the use of brain-simulating computers. Mr French read all the works of Jacqueline Susann, best-selling author of such pulp classics as *Valley of the Dolls* and *Once is Not Enough*.

He then trained the computer to "think" in Susann's writing formula, based on the probability that she would include such factors as sex,

death, violence, drugs and money. The machine was also taught to imitate Susann's sentence and dialogue construction, and vocabulary.

For example, when two characters of the opposite sex meet in the course of the plot, the computer would ask Mr French to select what one might call the "steaminess factor": if this was low, the computer would search its memory for words like "rustle", "glance", "breath" or "giggle".

If, on the other hand, the steam factor was deemed to be high, the computer would craft a sentence which might contain such words as "pant", "grasp", "water", "melon", "shudder" or "tips". Mr French would then tidy

up the spelling and grammar, before moving on to the next sentence. "You can't get up, walk away, come back and find a completed chapter," Mr French, 43, told *The New York Times*. "It's not that advanced." The human author estimates that he wrote perhaps one-quarter of the prose, the computer wrote another quarter and the rest was a joint effort.

Fifteen thousand copies have been printed and *Just This Once* has already received rave advance reviews, particularly from the Jackie Susann fan club (Ms Susann died in 1974), which declared: "She would be proud. Lots of money, sleaze, disease, death, oral sex, tragedy and the good girl gone bad."

White House eats humble pie over sacking of staff

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE White House admitted last night that it had comprehensively bungled the sacking of its veteran travel office staff and that five of the seven men dismissed should be given new government jobs.

It published a frank internal report on last May's "Travelgate" saga that harshly criticised top officials not only for the sackings themselves, but for the way they subsequently tried to justify them by hinting broadly at corruption and calling in the FBI. The report, by Thomas McLarty, the White House chief of staff, and Leon Panetta, President Clinton's budget director, named particular officials but did not recommend disciplinary action, attributing their errors to inexperience and ineptitude. It said the travel office failed to follow routine business and accounting practices. The FBI has so far found no evidence of criminal conduct.

The summary dismissals, without appeal, caused an instant furor. It was revealed that a distant cousin of Mr Clinton was taking over the travel operation, and that Harry Thompson, an old friend of the president with interests in an airline charter company, had complained to Mr Clinton of associates being excluded from the White House travel business. The travel office handles millions of dollars from news organ-

isations that accompany the president on trips.

Amid the uproar, officials bypassed established procedures by calling in the FBI and releasing an FBI statement saying a criminal investigation was warranted. Critics charged that the FBI was being used for political purposes, and Janet Reno, the attorney-general, complained to the White House.

By publishing so candid a report, the White House evidently hoped to dispose quickly of an episode emblematic of the Clinton administration's chaotic first months. Since David Gergen's arrival as Mr Clinton's counselor on June 7 the White House operation has been noticeably sharper. It has largely eliminated self-inflicted wounds and Mr Clinton has risen in the polls.

On Thursday night, as if to underscore his return to the political centre, the president took the unusual step of dining in a Washington restaurant with Robert Dole, the Senate's Republican minority leader and de facto leader of the opposition.

Mr Clinton took office last January believing he could ignore the Republicans because Democrats controlled Congress. It has since become clear that he must forge a centrist coalition with moderate Republicans to enact much of his legislative programme.

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British defence review weighs up the option for lighter forces

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

DOUGLAS Hurd, the foreign secretary, once described Britain as a medium-sized power with a developed sense of international responsibility. Defence policy has reflected this view, with commitments across the globe. But are we trying to do too much for our money?

On Monday, the annual defence white paper will explain in detail for the first time how the £24 billion defence budget is spent, an important gesture towards open government. The government's Options for Change strategy for the 1990s has proposed mobile, more flexible forces for a different world following the collapse of the Soviet Union and its empire.

Yet Britain's prestige defence commitment is its involvement in Nato's rapid reaction corps in Germany, a name that is somewhat deceptive, since many of its elements are not capable of reacting rapidly. On current planning, it would take about 20 days for the four divisions of the corps to be mobilised. Then there would have to be a huge logistics effort to airlift and ship them to the trouble-spot, an operation that took months during the lead-up to the Gulf war.

Monday's white paper will give details for the first time of defence spending. The question is how the £24 billion budget can be put to the best use

ing rapidly. On current planning, it would take about 20 days for the four divisions of the corps to be mobilised. Then there would have to be a huge logistics effort to airlift and ship them to the trouble-spot, an operation that took months during the lead-up to the Gulf war.

Only the United States could provide that capability. Europe does not have a fleet of giant transport planes and could not cope on its own. Will this American support always be on tap? If an American administration refuses to become involved in a peacemaking operation because it sees no national interest at stake, the rapidly deployable corps will be immobilised.

The corps still bears the hallmarks of Cold War thinking, with

its emphasis on heavy armour and artillery. Peacekeeping is supposed to be the buzz word for Nato, but is this the ideal vehicle for such a role? Although elements of the force can be described as flexible and rapidly deployable, such as its headquarters staff and 5 Airborne Brigade, based at Aldershot, the corps as a whole is a formidable fighting machine whose role in the new world "disorder" is unclear.

There are a number of reasons why the government places so much importance on it. First, a British general commands it, which gives us influence; second, the allocation of two divisions — one armoured in Germany, and the other mechanised in southern England — demonstrates Britain's continuing commitment to Nato;

and third, the corps, backed by "main defence forces", represents an insurance policy against the rebirth of anti-Western militarism in Russia.

None of these reasons for keeping 23,000 soldiers in Germany can be dismissed lightly, although by 1995 they will represent nearly a quarter of the army's trained strength. But if the defence budget is going to be hit by the Chancellor each year, as seems unavoidable, should Britain devote so much of its resources to a corps which appears to have no obvious practical use?

In spite of this question over the role of the rapid reaction corps, there is a view that, if it comes to a fight for resources between heavy and light forces, the big guns should win. The supporters of heavy versus light have a good case. The Gulf land war was won with tanks and artillery, and even in Bosnia, where British soldiers are involved in a non-combat operation, they have taken 50

heavily armoured Warriors as protection.

Defence policy, however, cannot be based on the notion that every time we contemplate intervening "out of area", we send an armoured brigade or division. Not every enemy in the future is going to be a President Saddam Hussein.

The government's policy under Options for Change was to maintain a mixture of forces, albeit at reduced strength, capable of taking on every kind of commitment. So the heavyweight forces have to be balanced by lighter-armed units that can be described genuinely as mobile and instantly deployable.

The Royal Marines would argue that units such as 3 Commando Brigade can be inserted into a potentially hostile environment with their own support and (in future) attack helicopters in days.

Lighter forces may not be able to win a war against an enemy with tank and artillery divisions, like Iraq, but they can project instant power and they fulfil the require-

ment for greater mobility and versatility.

In arguing for properly balanced forces, however, there is the question of cost. The army is pushing for a complete fleet of the new Challenger 2 tanks. The RAF wants a full complement of Eurofighter 2000 aircraft to replace Jaguars. The Royal Navy expects the government to keep to its commitment to buy two new amphibious assault ships to replace HMS Fearless and HMS Intrepid, and to build a £170 million helicopter carrier.

Something may have to give. If there is to be an increasing call on British military expertise for peacekeeping, and if this is the way we are to fulfil Mr Hurd's view of a country retaining global responsibilities, it would be unwise to sacrifice the mobile and lighter-armed forces. Because they are self-supporting and do not require the huge logistic chain needed for armoured brigades, the lighter forces are more cost-effective. A number of Conservative

backbench MPs are getting increasingly worried that the armed services are being too greatly reduced, that the Options for Change review has been overtaken by events, particularly in the former Yugoslavia, and that the time has come to make substantial readjustments.

Faced with a need to cut back on public spending, however, the government is not going to be in a position to make a special case for defence. It is far more likely that the Chancellor will demand even larger defence cuts this autumn than he did last year, when savings of £1.05 billion were ordered.

This is when the argument for reducing capabilities could begin and the present balance could gradually be undermined. Ministers and officials still talk of the need to have a "gold bag" of capabilities from which one can select the appropriate "club" for each eventuality. Retaining that choice will be crucial in the years ahead.

Russians go on offensive in troubled borderlands

By BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

RUSSIA'S military involvement on the outskirts of the former Soviet Union deepened yesterday as bloody clashes were reported on the border with Afghanistan and in Georgia's Black Sea province of Abkhazia.

In Azerbaijan, the new regime, headed by a senior aide to the late Soviet leader, Leonid Brezhnev, launched a broad counter-attack to recapture ground recently lost to the Armenians.

Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian leader, flew to the embattled seaport of Sukhumi, his country's main stronghold in the Black Sea war zone, after denouncing an onslaught by Abkhazian rebels and an influx into the region of at least 2,000 Russian troops.

Legislators voted over-

Georgia's troops in two. The anti-Georgian coalition, which includes fighters from the small Muslim nations of southern Russia, appears to be taking revenge for this week's downing of a Russian helicopter by Georgian forces.

Colonel Vladimir Tokkovani, Mr Shevardnadze's chief military adviser, said that ten Russians were killed on Thursday when Georgia shot down a helicopter en route to Abkhazia. He said the craft was packed with ammunition. Mr Shevardnadze called the assault "a deliberate provocation".

Yesterday's fighting left in ruins a ceasefire negotiated by Mr Shevardnadze and President Yeltsin on May 20. The assault bore all the signs of a venting by the Russian military of its rage with Mr Shevardnadze and his republic, where ethnic Russian residents complain of increasing harassment. Mr Shevardnadze has often claimed that Mr Yeltsin does not fully control Russian forces in and around Abkhazia.

In Tajikistan, where Moscow has sided with a government of old-guard communists against the Islamic opposition, Russian forces said that they had killed at least 40 out of a force of 150 fundamentalists who had crossed from Afghanistan. General Anatoli Chechulin, commander of the Russian forces in the mountainous border area, said the fighting marked the climax of a steady rise in tension since April.

In an ominous sign that the Afghan-style fighting is spreading northwards, Russian forces scrambled helicopters after the intruders opened fire with mortars and machineguns. Moscow has made it plain that it sees a huge strategic interest in halting the spread throughout Central Asia of Afghan-inspired fundamentalism.

In the Shia Muslim republic of Azerbaijan, Heidar Aliyev, the newly installed leader, appeared to have sanctioned a wide-ranging assault on Armenian positions in Nagorno-Karabakh, using tanks and artillery to capture four villages and threaten Armenian control of the town of Mar-dakert. Mr Aliyev was reported to have ordered all men aged from 18 to 26 to be drafted into the forces fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh.

The offensive was a clear attempt to establish the military credentials of a new regime which has effectively ousted the democratically elected nationalists of Abulfaz Elchibey.



Pressing on: new recruits to the armed forces in Lithuania going through a daily training routine in Vilnius, the capital. The Baltic former Soviet republic is building its military in an assertion of independence from Moscow.

Draskovic on hunger strike

FROM DESSA TREVISAN
IN BELGRADE

VUK Draskovic, the imprisoned Serbian opposition leader, has begun a hunger strike as medical reports on him and his wife spoke of deterioration. He called for continuing medical treatment and for their release.

The decision to go on hunger strike and starve himself to death came after the courts extended the couple's custody by two months and the prosecutor pressed on with charges of inciting a riot. A political decision appears to have been taken to go ahead with a trial regardless of domestic and international reaction.

Mr Draskovic and his wife Dana were arrested a month ago and charged with inciting riots in which one policeman was killed and several people injured. They were arrested in the headquarters of their party, the Serbian Renewal Movement, and savagely beaten up while under arrest. The couple were thrown into prison cells even though suffering severe injuries, which a medical team subsequently described as life-threatening.

Balkan flashpoint

BY MISHA GLENNY

Ethnic tremors shake paradise

The Sar mountains in the south of the former Yugoslavia play host to the most curious of all Bosnian refugees. Packs of wolves, displaced by the fighting and the lack of food in Bosnia-Herzegovina, have made their way through southern Serbia and Kosovo to the lush slopes and sparkling springs of the Sar to feast on sheep and goat.

Like all landscapes seemingly fashioned by the architects of paradise in this region, the Sar is also a black spot. Seduced by the beauty, few notice the danger until too late. The Sar is the point where three regions meet, northern Albania, Kosovo and western Macedonia. It is here that a chaotic, down-trodden nation, Albania, hopes its romantic dreams of unity may be fulfilled.

The tremors of conflict are beginning to shake the mountains. They are still imperceptible to much of the outside world. But the paradox of a nation that is seeking both liberation from repression and the goal of an expanded nation state at the expense of

two others may soon result in a catastrophe in the southern Balkans against which the Bosnian conflict will seem quite simple to understand. The immediate problem facing the Albanian government is the dramatic deterioration in its relations with Greece. The expulsion of a Greek

Orthodox priest, Archimandrite Chrysostomos from southern Albania has led to a massive retaliation by the Greek government in the shape of 13,000 illegal Albanian immigrants herded back over Greece's northern border. The expulsion of Mr Chrysostomos has also exacer-

erated tension between Tirana and Albania's Greek minority in the south.

Albania has protested to Athens, demanding the expulsions stop and alleging that at least 53 deportees had been beaten. Neither side can gain from this squalid development, although it will give succour to nationalist politicians on both sides. There are plenty of those.

But while the focus is on southern Albania, even more serious developments among the Albanian populations of Kosovo, the southern Serbian province, and western Macedonia are going unnoticed.

In Kosovo, the key to peace has until now been the remarkable ability of Ibrahim Rugova, the local Albanian leader, who has a gentle manner and genuine concern for the well-being of his own people. Mr Rugova insists the Kosovo Albanians seek a peaceful way to realise secession from Serbia. He argues that if the Serbs do not agree to let go of Kosovo, then his people must not take up arms.

Italian senators' vote for 15-year limit alarms MPs

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

HORRIFIED Italian MPs protested yesterday after the senate approved an electoral reform bill amendment that would prevent politicians from holding parliamentary seats for more than 15 years.

If the amended bill is passed by the chamber of deputies, the lower house, it would mean about 160 MPs would be barred from standing in the next general election. Among those who would have to seek alternative employment are many prominent advocates of electoral reform, including Achille Occhetto, leader of the former communist Democratic Party of the Left (PDS), Mino Martinazzoli, leader of the Christian Democrats, and Mario Segni, the main organiser of a popular referendum on electoral reform held in April.

The amendment, designed to cut away dead wood in the parliamentary ranks, was presented by Concetto Scivoletto, a backbench MP of PDS, and passed by a comfortable Senate majority on Thursday night. Under its terms no MP may serve in more than three full legislative terms or a maximum of 15 years. "The old political actors should not apply the new rules," Signor Scivoletto said. But news of the vote caused consternation among many of his party comrades.

"This norm is unconstitutional," Augusto Barbera, a leading PDS thinker on electoral reform, contended. "Parliament must have gone mad." La Stampa noted that Signor Occhetto had not been informed of the amendment. "When he was told what had happened his jaw dropped," it reported.

Leopoldo Elia, the minister for institutional reform, said

there was nothing in the constitution precluding the 15-year limit.

Signor Barbera cited the British example to try to bring his colleagues to their senses. "The English Parliament has never made a similar disposition," Francesco D'Onofrio, a right-wing Christian Democrat, joked grimly that the amendment was "at least better than the guillotine".

The amendment was supported by the devolutionist Lombardy League, most of whose MPs were only elected at the general election in April 1992, as well as by the Christian Democrats, Socialists and Social Democrats. The Republicans, Rete (Network), Liberals and the Communist Refoundation opposed it. The PDS abstained.

Earlier this week the chamber of deputies passed separate electoral reform measures introducing a mainly first-past-the-post voting system to replace the post-war PR rules. Commentators predict that bill may run into fierce opposition in the senate from MPs desperate not to legislate themselves out of what were hitherto considered safe seats.



Occhetto faced with losing his seat

Bundesbank chief firm on currency

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

HELMUT Schlesinger, the Bundesbank chief, said yesterday that the criteria for entry into the European Monetary Union should not be weakened and emphasised that the European central bank must be free of political interference.

Herr Schlesinger was speaking at the end of a two-day hearing on the Maastricht treaty by the German Constitutional Court. The eight judges must decide whether the treaty can be squared with the constitution. Maastricht will not be recognised until the verdict is passed.

At the heart of the discussion has been how the planned European Monetary Union would affect Germany's ability to control inflation. A poll this week showed that 59 per cent of Germans oppose any

form of unified European currency. Herr Schlesinger was confident, if cautious, about the future of the European central bank. "Its independence has been secured, the instruments for a joint monetary policy are available," he said. Everything depended on the convergence criteria — price stability, limits on budget deficits and government debt — being strictly enforced.

Prosecutor criticised: The Social Democratic party yesterday called for the resignation of Alexander von Stahl, the prosecutor-general, for his handling of a terrorist shooting incident last weekend. A suspected member of the Red Army Faction was shot dead as he left a railway station with his girlfriend.

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Who decides how aggressively to respond to threats from terrorists, and how can such retaliation be kept in proportion?

The White House is delighted. Most of the Tomahawk missiles that were launched on Baghdad last weekend landed where they were supposed to land, only a few harmless Iraqi civilians were killed, and President Clinton's popularity rating jumped.

But what was the point of this offensive? According to America's top general, Colin Powell, the military had "designed the attack so that it would be proportionate to the attack on President Bush". This is presumably why the attack took so many weeks to plan, for it cannot have been easy to decide on a "proportionate response" to a failed assassination attempt against a former president.

A failed assassination attempt against a former Iraqi president is the most proportionate response that comes to mind, but there would have been problems with that: first nobody can remember the name of a former Iraqi president; second, President Clinton is not in need of another failure, and third, it is against US law to attempt to kill a foreign head of state, even if the attempt fails.

The only legal way for the United States to try to assassinate a foreign head of state is by killing a lot of other people at the same time. Thus when Ronald Reagan wanted to bump off Colonel Gaddafi in April 1986, he was obliged to drop a whole bundle of bombs on Tripoli, with planes sent from British bases, causing many lives to be lost (though not, unfortunately, Gaddafi's).

So, with a counter-assassination attempt ruled out, what might be deemed proportionate? William Safire, President Nixon's former speechwriter, thought that bombing the Saddam Hussein's intelligence agency "after its officials had left for the day" was not nearly virile enough. It was "a pitiful wrist-slap" he wrote in his column

Alexander Chancellor in New York



This is an odd way of describing him, and reveals an uncertainty about the status of former American presidents who have returned to ordinary civilian life. If Mr Bush is a symbol of American government, how significant a symbol is he? Would an attempt against Mr

in *The New York Times*. But then Mr Safire was scornful of the whole idea of proportionality. He just longs, as many Americans do, for Saddam to be taught "an unforgettable lesson".

The New York Times itself was much wiser, pointing out that the Clinton administration had not published the proof that it was the Iraqi authorities which organised the assassination attempt on Mr Bush in Kuwait last April. But the paper agreed that if proof were produced, some sort of military response would be appropriate, because Mr Bush was "a symbol of American government".

Reagan, for example, require a fiercer response, or an attempt against Gerald Ford a milder one? And how about more potent symbols of America, such as Madonna, say, or Oprah Winfrey? Would an attack on one of them necessitate the flattening of Baghdad?

Doubtless there is strong evidence of Iraqi involvement in the attempt on Mr Bush, but it appears to be no more strong — almost certainly less strong — than the evidence against the blind New Jersey shahk who is believed to have inspired the Muslim terrorists who bombed the World Trade Centre in New York in February,

and were foiled last month in an even more ambitious programme of bombings and assassinations. Whatever happened to proportionality here? Although it has now been announced that Shaikh Omar Abdel Rahman will be taken into custody soon, for violating immigration laws, he has remained at liberty for more than four months since the huge explosion at the World Trade Centre, which killed several people and injured about 1,000.

While much of the evidence against the shahk is circumstantial, federal law enforcement officials said last week that they knew through monitoring of his conversations that he was aware of the recent plot to set off bombs around the city and to assassinate the secretary-general of the United Nations, the president of Egypt, and two members of the United States Congress. Washington claims no such direct evidence of

Iraqi involvement in the plot to kill Mr Bush. Yet innocent Iraqis die for that while the shahk is not even charged. Instead he goes on preaching the fiery sermons which used to incite his followers in Egypt to violence.

Last weekend, Senator Alfonse D'Amato of New York, one of the two congressmen the terrorists had targeted for assassination, said he was "outraged" that the shahk had not been arrested, and called on the authorities "to demonstrate to others that we have the ability... the will to stand up and do what we have to do...".

It was with similar justifications that President Clinton ordered the attack on Iraq. Yet the justice department balked at arresting the shahk. It feared, among other things, that the legal basis for such an arrest might not be firm enough; yet it was certainly firmer than the president's legal basis for bombing Baghdad.

Rosemary Righter predicts both instability and trading chaos if Clinton's men act as they talk

What if America takes a back seat?

Some two years ago, as the rest of the world celebrated the end of the Cold War and the success of Desert Storm, a confidential memo was circulated to China's senior cadres. The upheavals in Europe had, it said, a silver lining: the communist threat had bound America and Western Europe together, and the disintegration of the West would rapidly follow that of the Eastern bloc.

The Chinese have a taste, born of history and doctrinal arrogance, for the long view. They must be staggered by the speed with which the Atlantic has been widening. The urgency with which the West set out to reshape policies after the collapse of the Iron Curtain has all but evaporated. Beginning in 1992, when Americans were absorbed by electing a new president and Europeans by the Maastricht backlash, this process of estrangement has accelerated in the six months since Bill Clinton took office.

Next week's Western economic summit in Tokyo will be a gloomy affair. On trade, economic policy and strategic priorities, there is disturbingly little meeting of minds over dozens of disputes great and small.

Douglas Hurd this week cautioned "wiseacres on either side of the Atlantic or the Channel" against saying that American military withdrawal from Europe was inevitable. But he betrayed his own anxiety by saying that such prophecies might be self-fulfilling.

If America is only temporarily distracted by domestic problems, stoic reticence might be the appropriate response; but the Clinton administration is closing down consulates and missions, and of this week announced the closure of 90 military bases in Europe. America will soon, in the estimate of General Colin Powell, be spending as low a proportion of its gross national product on defence as it did in the 1930s. And Mr Clinton, as the Europeans are discovering to the consternation of all but the French, is the first post-war American president to be ambivalent about free trade. What if America is indeed about to take a back seat in world affairs?

The shrinking of American horizons was dramatically evident at a Ditchley Foundation conference last weekend. The debates suggested that Mr Hurd's "wiseacres" may be under-rating, not exaggerating, America's indifference to Europe. There is a new willingness to go it alone, not just in strategic matters but in trade. Speaker after speaker drove home two unpleasant messages. The first was that there is a novel and massive cynicism, widespread in big business as well as Washington, about the fate of the Uruguay Round in particular and beyond that, about the survival of the post-war trading system under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Most of the American participants said that they would not be unduly alarmed if the Round failed. Trade was less significant in the American economy than in Europe and East Asia, was "an exercise in bureaucratic sophistry with little or no relevance to international industry".

If there were new trade barriers, America had the muscle to surmount them. If the EC built a protectionist fortress, "sooner or later it will be forced to come back to reality". As for Japan, it ignored even those rules by which it had agreed to be bound. Americans did not believe that they "meant a damn thing" to the Japanese. If the choice lay, therefore, between ratifying the Uruguay Round and re-

taining the American law which obliges the administration to retaliate against "unfair" trade, they were almost unanimous that Congress would vote to keep its crowbar in place. If this is indeed the Clinton administration's attitude, the Uruguay Round might well die on Capitol Hill even if Britain and Germany manage to stop the French blocking a deal.

As for Western security, in the blunt words of one American, "the fate of NATO is not a live issue in the US today". And for this, he added, Europeans should be thankful. Because if it were, Washington might well be thinking about substituting a few naval and air bases for its ground forces in Europe. The Europeans must understand that with ten divisions instead of 27, America would look at the world through colder eyes. Most agreed that American public opinion had been appalled by European dithering while Bosnia burns, and that this could reduce political support for Nato. The alliance, one American said, was "going to have to do something which makes it an organisation to which we have to be committed".

In debates of this kind, some exaggeration creeps in. Most present agreed that Washington will at least retain a strong interest in a balance of power on the Eurasian land-mass, allowing neither Russia nor Germany to become too dominant, and an even stronger interest in maintaining a security umbrella credible enough to pre-empt any leanings in Germany (or Japan) towards nuclear-power status.

A division of labour is becoming apparent in Europe, with the Americans concentrating on the strategic partnership with Russia, while the EC pretends to take responsibility for its Central European neighbours. Such decoupling of effort would further weaken the Atlantic alliance and is potentially extremely dangerous.

Europeans should take careful note of some parting reflections by the outgoing US ambassador to the European Communities, James Dobbins. Like the ozone layer, he said, the capacity of the Atlantic connection to shield the EC from changes to its east was diminishing. Unless remedial action was taken, he feared "not only the failure of reform in the East, but even the unravelling of much that has been achieved in the West over the past 50 years".

The most striking parallel drawn at Ditchley was not with the 1930s, but with 1949. Then, a US president had to explain to a reluctant American public that although the Allies had won the war, Europe could become a very dangerous place if they stood aloof. Now, Americans had to understand that there were mortgages from the past to be paid before they can cash the peace dividend.

Even in the hands of a more obviously internationalist administration, the task of persuasion would be harder now than in 1949. It is easier to unite against an evident threat than to join in the difficult and expensive project of managing European instability. New thinking is needed, as fundamental to-day as when, more than 40 years ago, the world was confronted by nuclear weapons. An American Secretary of State who sees in Bosnia only "a humanitarian crisis a long way from home, in the middle of another continent" is not about to provide it. Obviously, the White House did not dissociate itself from Warren Christopher's verdict.

In the service of numbers

Statistical assessment of the professions is putting more and more power into the hands of central government

Last week's police reforms were announced to the world with the words: "Police forces will have to meet annual target for solving crime... annual pay awards for policemen are to be replaced with performance-related salaries."

The world, on the whole, said "Hurrah": get those police off their bureaucratic backsides and out fighting criminals. If they fail to perform, hit them where it hurts. A points system is to be introduced. Police chiefs will have to meet national crime targets and targets for putting officers on the beat. Policemen may be judged on speed of response to 999 calls and solving crimes. I can hear Whitehall's computers humming at the prospect.

I wonder how many professional readers of this paper would like to be paid the same way. Performance-related pay has become a public-sector craze. Thirteen years of "comparability with the private sector" have gone. It was a recipe for inflation. Since profit-related pay is hardly relevant to most public services, the new jargon of "performance" is filling the pages of a hundred consultants' reports. But professional performance is easier to demand than to measure.

The police say baldly that the crude points system likely to be recommended by Whitehall will mean worse policing. Undue emphasis will be placed in any pay structure on those aspects of their work that are quantifiable — and those that are unquantifiable will be neglected. A policeman will maximise his pay by racing through red lights from one incident to another. He will not waste time staying to comfort the victim of the last incident or liaising with community groups. He will cut corners on confessions (known euphemistically as "good cause corruption"). He will caution by the score and improve his clear-up rate by concentrating on crimes such as soliciting and drugs. Service to the public will become service to whatever is measurable.

I suppose policemen would say all this. But the police are not the only public servants now victims of the mania for bureaucratic measurement. Head teachers are to be assessed by league tables. Their staff may have their incomes determined on truancy rates and the exam passes of their pupils. The national curriculum council has expressed concern that teachers appear already to be "teaching the test" rather than teaching the child. What did it expect? If exams are to be the measure of performance, exams will be taught before all else.

General practitioners are experiencing the same drift. Doctors can adjust their income by the number of cervical screenings, contraceptive sessions and vaccinations they carry out. If they save money on operations, they can spend it on their premises. This has nothing to do with their own judgment of the needs of their patients or neighbourhoods, and all to do with



These are the good old days: proper professional practice is rooted in relationships of trust

Simon Jenkins

Whitehall fads. Doctors are supposed to work to the General Medical Council's ethical blue book. Greedy ones will pay more attention to the health department's vast "red book", detailing the ways that GPs can manipulate the payments system to boost their incomes. Doctors have been known to get their pay up to six figures, but I doubt if it did their patients much good. That is the message of centrally-determined performance pay.

Likewise, lawyers on legal aid have their costs "taxed" according to complex formulas designed by the Lord Chancellor's department. If contingency fees are widely accepted, lawyers too will be vulnerable to a definitive performance indicator: winning or losing cases. Even clergymen are vulnerable. The Church of England Synod is this month considering a paper on wider assessment of parish priests. This could extend the quotas by which parishes are expected to

contribute to a priest's stipend. Priests may be given an incentive to take on more churches and attract bigger congregations. Goodness knows where this would leave Trollope's poor Mr Crawley, the "perpetual curate" of Barsetshire.

To private professionals such as architects or engineers or actors or consultants, such measures may seem right and proper. Their work is susceptible to payment by results. Public service professions, with their grumpy trains and "Bugger turn" mentality, have had it good for too long. They are getting

their come-uppance. They are all, as Shaw said, conspiracies against the laity. The laity is striking back. If the lawyer blows it, let the lawyer be out of pocket. If the teacher cannot deliver exam results, dock his pay. If the policeman prefers to chase villains, make sure he stays poor.

Up to a point perhaps. But who is to be the judge? Who is to guard the guardians? The drive to quantify the professions and public service generally comes mostly from central government. Ministers want to improve quality — no bad thing — but by their own lights and those of their advisers. Immense new powers are being conferred on the Chief Inspector of Constabulary, the Chief Medical Officer, the Schools Inspectorate. The Treasury wants more direct control over cash and thus on management. This requires measurement, however crude. Performance statistics supply it. They are agents of nationalisation.

I do not believe any minister is remotely concerned about the risk inherent in this drift. The risk is distorting the essence of a profession to allow performance criteria to be determined by central government. The professions are rooted in relationships of trust between practitioners and clients. This trust is undermined by "output measures" as it is by crude profit-making. That is why most professions have stern codes of ethics.

Deciding how well a public service is being delivered is a challenge — as is determining pay. Monitoring of local doctors, teachers, lawyers and policemen has often been remiss in the past. But I am sure that monitoring is best handled, as in private practice, by the professional oversight of close colleagues and by feedback from customers. The monitoring unit has to be small enough to know the person monitored, otherwise the statistician is king.

Policemen are in a special position. They are the most truly local of all public services. They can be accountable only to their communities. A good policeman is not just one who catches criminals: crime is less than 10 per cent of even the most assiduous constable's work. The current political hyping of crime statistics gives a distorted view of police work. Satisfaction with a police force should be expressed by the community through local democracy.

Abolishing that, as the government wishes to do, and substituting Whitehall-appointed police authorities enforcing Whitehall's performance measures is the surest way to distance police from public. Many chief police officers hate the inconvenience of local democracy, and welcome the last week's proposed nationalisation. I bet in ten years' time they will look back to "the good old days" when policemen were directly answerable to local leaders and could lean on such leadership in time of need.

The centralisation of performance measures, like the centralisation of local services generally, is no aid to efficiency. I find it astonishing that Tories now seem to believe otherwise. Centralised public servants, from their clients and leads to waste and bureaucracy. We know all about this. The Home Office has long run its prisons centrally, as the health department has run its hospitals. These are the least efficient, least accountable services in Britain. Ministers are now frantically trying to get rid of both.

Yet they cannot stop themselves making the same mistake with the police, doctors and teachers. No longer can Pope plead "Whatever is best administered is best". What is best today is what is easiest to centralise and quantify. This form of performance measure is not a citizen's but a civil servant's charter. Leviathan cannot stop gobbling more power.

Changing chimes

Bong. "News at Ten to move to early evening slot, say ITV bosses" — desperate to get their hands on some post-water-shed prime time.

Bong. "Oh no it isn't," decrees a prime minister, desperate to show the nation's institutions are safe in his hands.

Bong. "Oh no it isn't," agree the leader of the Opposition, the broadcasting authorities and a parliamentary select committee.

Bong. "News at Ten to move to early evening slot, insist angry ITV bosses" — no doubt secretly wishing they could do some post-water-shed damage to the prime minister.

Their defiance left John Major at the end of another week in distinct danger of finding himself in a familiar position — back at bong one. Yet just a few days earlier it must have seemed such a good idea to the PM's advisers. Just the thing to re-establish him as a man of action, as a man who would put the great back in Britain. President Clinton might have to resort to the odd Tomahawk missile or 23, but not our John: well aimed epistles are more his style. An emphatic statement in support of *News at*

Ten would do for Mr Major. Just as last year's emphatic statement in support of the exchange-rate mechanism eventually did for Mr Lamont.

Whether *News at Ten* or John Major turns out to be the lost cause, it is, arguably, unclear. But whichever it is, defending that which seems irretrievable is a typically British business — as so many events have proved.

Take British cricket for instance. What do you mean you thought the Australians already had? That sort of defeatist talk is most unwelcome, particularly in the immediate vicinity of Ron Allsopp, the groundsman who ensured that the mower had come about as close to the Trent Bridge wicket as Asil Nadir has to the Old Bailey. "I'm doing my bit for Britain," he said proudly, next to the luxurious sward. But he'd reckoned without Allan Border, master of both bat and bluff. "Looks great to me," said the Aussie captain, quickly going one up in the pre-match battle of nerves.

Whether Mr Allsopp consulted *Gardeners' Question Time* about his patriotic wicket preparation — perhaps in search of a rare spin-



defeating strain of rye-grass — is not known. But gardeners everywhere would defend his right to do so — and will be doing so vigorously following fears that the BBC's decision to have this bastion of horticultural broadcasting independently produced has cast a dark shadow over the future of Clay Jones, its splendid presenter. Norma Major is already working on an emphatic statement of support for the Save Clay Campaign. Radio 4 devotees, encouraged by talk that the lost cause of long-wave transmission may yet be won, are hoping she won't let her husband sign it.

In battle-torn Bosnia, the former page-three model Samantha Fox arrived on a brave, if misguided, mission to cheer up our lads in the United Nations peacekeeping force. Her arrival prompted the cruel observation that it was dif-

ficult to know which cause was the more lost, Bosnia's future or Fox's career now that she has put her top back on. Bosnia's future now hangs on all three sides getting back together. The outlook for Fox, who is threatening to come out of retirement, is not wholly dissimilar.

Back in Britain, Oxford has long been considered the natural home of the lost cause. But since that university managed to have one of its alumni elected president of the United States, that honour has passed instead to *Hello!* magazine, particularly in the sub-group of human relationships. Sure enough, this week's issue arrived with a glossy cover picture of the Duke and Duchess of York at their daughter's sports day, with the headline "Putting last year's traumas aside to be united and affectionate parents". How far aside was evident just 24 hours later. The Yorks had finally struck a separation agreement, dashing all hope of a royal reconciliation.

Moving from the Yorks to Durham, there was good news for Church of England traditionalists who believe that religion has been pretty much a lost cause in the city for the past decade. The Right Rev David Jenkins announced his intention to retire. Ever since the south transept of Durham Cathedral was destroyed by fire just three

days after his enthronement, Dr Jenkins has rarely been out of the headlines. Fearless in his criticism of government policy, he has been equally forthright in his views on some of the cornerstones of Christianity, most memorably in the doubts he cast on the historical veracity of the Virgin birth and the Resurrection.

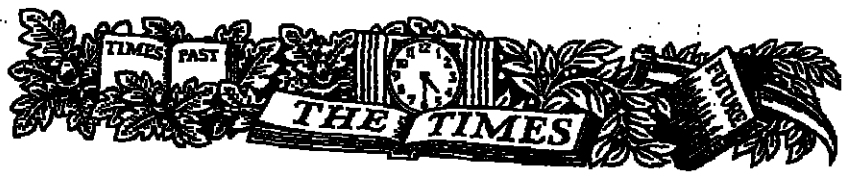
Personally, I am not altogether convinced of the historical veracity of his retirement. As Dr Jenkins says himself: "Don't let people think they have got rid of me yet." There's a lot more to retirement than a quick conjuring trick with mire and staff.

MATTHEW BOND

Major, Fox, Jenkins
blah blah...



geb



A POOR STRUCTURE

Europe does not need a hidden industrial policy

The EC's meeting yesterday to arrange the and-out to member states of its expanding structural fund" should inspire mixed emotions in Britain. Last night the British government was still pressing the claim of Merseyside and the Highlands and Islands to be included in the most lucrative category of funding, which would bring them £1 billion and £265 million respectively over the next five years. That money would be welcome in these depressed areas, just as this same European aid has been in Northern Ireland. But broader issues remain.

"Structural" spending, which seeks to bridge the economic and social gap between rich and poor countries and regions, is now the second largest item in the EC budget after agricultural expenditure. The scramble for great nations to prove that they have the poorest regions in Europe is thus both as surprising as it is an indignified one. It would have been foolhardy of Britain to stay out of the race for the 109 billion prize money agreed at last year's Edinburgh summit. The Highlands and Merseyside have a marginally higher level of per capita wealth than is theoretically required for "Objective 1" funding, targeted at "lagging regions". This rule is now likely to be bent, showing the flexible EC discretion which both discourages rigorous bids and encourages demands.

This is increasingly an arbitrary system of wealth redistribution. The equally deprived areas of Moray, Argyll and Bute, were excluded from the Highlands application because the EC Commission does not recognise the boundaries which the Scottish Office put forward and the European Parliament approved. Those suffering more concentrated deprivation in Britain's inner cities might also question the very concept of

"regional poverty", which appears to apply to Merseyside but not to south London.

The improved roads in Northern Ireland are a testament to what can be achieved when EC structural aid is wisely spent; but other schemes indicate how wasteful this kind of spending becomes without accountability and tough auditing. The proposed diversion of the river Achelous in Greece at EC expense, for example, is a reckless project which has been shielded from public scrutiny by the Community's refusal to publish its assessments.

Despite the punctilious approach of Bruce Millan, the regional commissioner responsible for the structural fund, its proper management is still dependent on the honesty of national governments and the patchy EC monitoring of expenditure. The European court of auditors, the Community's financial watchdog, has complained often of the inadequacy of the statistics which member states provide. EC fraud already costs each wage earner in the Community £20 per annum. As structural spending increases, so Mr Millan and his colleagues must insist on greater transparency.

The structural fund has been successfully used to woo poorer nations into the single market and assist the development of their political and economic systems. It has also been used, wrongly, as a bribe to silence the same nations' objections to monetary union. There is now a serious risk that structural funding — rather than deregulation and labour market reform — will be treated by the Community as a weapon with which to defeat European unemployment, the problem which confounded its leaders at Copenhagen last month. The last thing the EC needs is a vast, primitive and unaccountable welfare state and a hidden industrial policy.

THE COST OF SINGLE PARENTS

Fatherless families are not just a financial drain

The Michael Mates drama and the American raid on Baghdad created an unexpected snafu this week. They stopped the allegation of government cuts in single parent allowances from becoming a tidal wave of abuse against the Social Security Department and its Secretary of State, Peter Lilley. Here is nothing wrong, of course, with tacking Cabinet ministers. But in this serious season of public spending rumours little attention to a difficult issue can be beneficial: a lot of attention can be wholly unproductive.

The price of single parent families ought to be a legitimate area of discussion, and was used once again yesterday by John Woodcock, the Welsh secretary. The rising national cost is just one aspect. What ministers ought also to be able to discuss is the damage done to the social fabric by fatherless child-rearing.

It might be suggested that the relative poverty of one parent families is often exaggerated. There are almost twice as many two parent families living below the poverty line as one parent ones. Given the range of welfare benefits which are available here, it is often economically advantageous for a woman to have a child and remain unmarried. Her circumstances may be hard but she will be better off than many of the up-earning two parent families who help to support her with their taxes.

Because many of the anomalies come under the remit of the housing ministry and local councils, some of the current speculation about Mr Lilley's "plans" for hostels for unmarried mothers is misleading. It is local housing authorities who would be in a position to institute such a policy. The Social

Security Department could support the idea through changes in benefit arrangements. The responsibility would — and should — be more widely shared.

The way that single parent benefits complement housing policy is part of the explanation for the three-fold rise in their cost since 1979. At present, local authorities are obliged to house "homeless" single parent families as a priority. This means that motherhood automatically puts a woman (however young) at the top of a council's housing list providing that her parents say that they have evicted her from the family home. Housing benefit then covers 100 per cent of the rent and the mother automatically receives long term income support. All of this can make having a baby look like a ticket to independence. By offering comprehensive support only outside of the parental home, the welfare system is contributing to the isolation of unmarried mothers.

A social services culture has grown up which presents single parenthood as an alternative lifestyle which may be chosen, as a matter of right. The benefit system implicitly appears to condone such a choice by making it economically viable. Mr Lilley will be helped in his cost-cutting this year by his close ideological ties with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Michael Portillo. He may be hindered by the new more "political" culture emanating from the Chancellor of the Exchequer. But the debate must take place — openly and rationally, with maximum light and minimum heat and an awareness that the social cost of encouraging single parenthood may be as great as, or greater than, the financial one.

SPORTING HEROINES

Wimbledon has been a landmark in women's liberation

When Steffi Graf steps onto the Centre Court this afternoon to meet her unexpected challenger, Jana Novotna, in Wimbledon's undreaded women's singles final, they will witness a revolution not just in lawn tennis but in all sport. Sport is a test of strength and skill, courage and grace under pressure. But for almost all of sporting history it has been a test reserved for the men. Women's role was traditionally been subsidiary: to admire, to welcome home the conquering heroes, or to comfort the defeated.

There were exceptions. They say that Atalanta could beat most men in the sprints and outwrestled Peléus; but her records are mythological. Spartan girls took physical exercise alongside the boys; and there have always been some sports, such as equestrianism, skating and gymnastics, depending more on skill and agility than brute strength, in which women were allowed to compete — though not usually against men. In *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, Mary Wollstonecraft argued that if women were allowed to exercise, they would look better. She then imprudently alarmed most of her readers by adding that they would think more independently also.

A century ago, Wimbledon, under threat of competition from the London Athletic Club, reluctantly let in the women to play the new and then minor game of tennis. To avoid the exposure of female flesh, conventions of the time strapped them up in corsets and ankle-length skirts, blouses with buttoned sleeves and hats; and they were allowed onto the courts only after the men had finished their championships. In 1895, when Lottie Dod, excused corsets because she was only

15, won the first of her five singles titles, she bicycled home to Surbiton, where her father asked where she had been. When she reminded him that she had been playing tennis at Wimbledon, and had just won the championship, he replied, "Well, I'm so glad," and carried on clipping the hedge.

Through the hole that Lottie and her sporting sisters punched in the ancient male monopoly of sport, women have made a monopoly of sport. Women athletes, whose physical strength has reached about the level for which the Victorians codified many sports and games for men, offer more variety and artistry. They behave better. Being less childish, they never spit and seldom swear at the umpire or abuse their equipment. They are more sporting, more generous in victory, less petulant in defeat, meeting with triumph and disaster, and treating those two impostors just the same. And they show grace under pressure — not just the pressure of sport, but the older pressure of prejudice.

China's hand in Hong Kong's fate

From Mr Robert Fell

Sir, In your leading article of June 29, "Reminder to Peking", you rightly stressed the critical and urgent nature of yesterday's meeting of the Cabinet committee on Hong Kong. Today's outcome, that the foreign secretary will visit Peking "to set the essentials", will be widely welcomed.

The economy of Hong Kong is already so integrated with China that the committee will in reality be reviewing Britain's policy towards China — a country unbelievably changed since the 1984 agreement and now delicately poised at the breakthrough stage.

Whatever we think of Mr Chris Patten's strategy, the result of his first year is something less than beneficial for the smooth progress of Hong Kong and its longer-term international standing. The people of Hong Kong see that its net result is to leave the British government at the mercy of Peking for their economic development beyond 1997, and China effectively helpless in matters this side of 1997 if Britain chooses to be fractious — so much so that China apparently contemplates the creation of a shadow administration, however strongly it may deny the fact.

Hong Kong cannot tolerate the absurd and dangerous prospect of two parallel administrations. Parallel lines tend not to converge. The lesson from our decolonisation is that we have to allow those who will be the masters to educate themselves.

Hong Kong and our China policy will be well served if ministers decide on two points. The first is to reiterate their belief in the 1984 agreement, not only as fixed policy but also one which both parties will observe in spirit as it is in letter. In that spirit, the second decision would be to prepare for a seamless transfer at the flag change.

If there is a Peking fox, shoot it now. Widen the Peking talks to put the entire machinery of government and not only the constitution of the Legislative Council as the first item. Invite Peking to assist in the preparation of the administration for the final years of transition and beyond.

The point would be to lead to the appointment of a governor and the three senior officials acceptable to both sovereign parties, say, at the end of 1995, who would thus form the executive — for the government of Hong Kong will remain executive in form — before and after 1997.

Yours faithfully,
R. FELL
(Chief Executive, Hong Kong Stock Exchange, 1987-89,
60 The Drive, Craigwell,
Bognor Regis, West Sussex,
July 2.

The new bishop

From the Reverend E. M. T. Underhill

Sir, Now that a vacancy is imminent here in the Durham diocese, Ruth Gledhill (report, July 1) says: "Lobbying will begin almost immediately." Indeed, it has already gone on for some time. But why must it be yet again asserted that the next bishop is "almost certain to have a distinguished academic record"?

Having served under five Bishops of Durham, four of whom have been academics, I have no hesitation in saying that Durham now needs a man who has had a decent amount of experience of actually running a parish. Given this essential qualification, we parish men do not mind whether our chief pastor is an Anglo-Catholic or an evangelical.

Of the three names mentioned, two — Geoffrey Rowell and Stephen Sykes — have never had even a curacy, while John Polkinghorne has had only a two-year curacy and a two-year incumbency. We must not miss the opportunity that this impending vacancy provides to regain the proper priorities and essential thrusts of a soundly based parochial, pastoral and preaching ministry.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD UNDERHILL,
327 Durham Road,
Gateshead, Tyne and Wear.

Well worn

From Mr C. Priston

Sir, My tail suit, inherited from an uncle, had its first outing on me at a Cambridge May Ball in 1957 (letters, June 29, July 2). In the tail pocket were two ticket stubs for the Stoll Theatre for 1914. My morning suit is even older but has seen me through the Mansion House, Ascot, the Derby and a Buckingham Palace garden party. I hope to wear it when it is past its century, possibly at my son's wedding.

Yours etc.
CHRISTOPHER PRISTON,
9 Hampton Road,
Twickenham, Middlesex.

From Mrs Christopher Browning

Sir, A young friend of ours is getting married in Kent tomorrow, July 3, in a morning suit made for his grandfather's wedding in 1925. Except for a little attention to the silk lining it is in immaculate condition.

Yours faithfully,
G. R. BROWNING,
Fine Tree Cottage, 31 The Drive,
Wraybury, Middlesex,
July 2.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Claims and benefits for the disabled

From the Right Reverend James Thompson, Bishop of Bath & Wells

Sir, The prime minister's remarks in the House of Commons (report, June 16, early editions), that "beggars belief" that the numbers needing invalidity benefit could have doubled in the past eight years, have triggered wide and often ill-informed debate.

Some people conclude that the increase represents scroungers and malingers, others that the medical profession is not doing its job properly. Others assert that people are being "persuaded" to claim as sick rather than as unemployed, to reduce the unemployment numbers.

Much of what is being said is offensive and alarming to sick and disabled people receiving invalidity benefit. Yet there are logical reasons why the numbers are increasing.

First, we know from figures in the National Audit Office 1989 report, updated by later figures from the Department of Social Security, that the numbers claiming for the first time every year have not changed much since the early 1980s.

Because this is a benefit for medium-term or long-term incapacity, some people will recover and return to work, but others will not. So the numbers on this kind of benefit inevitably accumulate. And if jobs are in short supply, it will be harder for people in poor health or with disabilities to compete with unemployed people who are fit. So it takes longer to get back to work.

Second, we know that the number of women on invalidity benefit has increased along with their growing presence in the labour force. Before 1977, most working married women paid reduced national insurance contributions and so had reduced rights. Now they pay full contributions and have acquired rights to invalidity benefit when they need it on the same basis as working men — and rightly so.

Third, the published figures show that more than 70 per cent of people on the benefit are aged 50 or older. Most of these came onto benefit after the age of 50 and are men and women whose health has declined after years of work. In times of high unemployment they tend to be squeezed out of the labour force because of poor sickness records, and have the greatest difficulty in getting back to work.

There may be a need to tidy up some benefit procedures. If people are being pushed into claiming as sick rather than as unemployed, this

should stop. But to make sick and disabled people the target of expenditure cuts by deliberate action to reduce their rights to benefit, or to cut the amount of their already limited benefit, is not acceptable. All of them have a right to be treated with dignity and justice. Anything less is demeaning to us all.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES BATH & WELLS
(Chairman, Social Policy Committee),
Board for Social Responsibility,
The General Synod of the Church of England,
Church House,
Great Smith Street, SW1,
July 1.

From Mr Michael Brothers

Sir, Having stated its intention of reducing the number of people claiming invalidity benefit, the government has now announced changes to the way it supports disabled people in employment that will in effect force even more disabled people into dependency on benefits (Hansard, June 22). From April next year employers will have to make a contribution of 50 per cent towards the costs of support such as special equipment, assistance with fares to work for people for whom public transport is inaccessible, and the personal reader service for blind people, which is currently paid for in full by the Department of Employment.

This proposal effectively penalises those employers who are positive about employing disabled people, while those who discriminate and fail to fulfil the requirements of the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act 1944 to employ a 3 per cent quota of disabled people make no contribution.

The government has a stated policy of using persuasion and education to encourage employers to take on more disabled people. Creating a position where employing a disabled person is more expensive than employing a non-disabled person is a direct contradiction of that policy.

By seeking to pay for new services by cutting resources from existing ones, the government undermines all the available support and does untold damage to the employment prospects of disabled people.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BROTHERS
(Head of Equal Opportunities),
Greater London Association
of Disabled People,
336 Brixton Road, SW9,
June 25.

From Ms Lesley Abdela

Sir, If, as the trade union-funded Labour Research Department avers, 50 per cent of the top New Year and Birthday honours handed out to British business went to the chiefs of the 5 per cent of companies that were major donors to Conservative party funds, why not put other unique British institutions out for sale? For example, a donation might clinch publication of a letter in *The Times* (after this one).

Yours honestly,
LESLEY ABDELA,
The Lodge, Conock Manor,
Wiltshire,
June 28.

Interest rates

From Mr Toby Jessel, MP for Twickenham (Conservative)

Sir, The new Governor of the Bank of England, Mr Eddie George, is against political involvement in interest rates (report, July 1). But how to steer a course between inflation and unemployment, whilst upholding the economic growth on which our services and living standards depend, has been the basic stuff of British politics since the second world war.

Interest rates are central to these great issues. The public is apt to hold the government responsible, despite international influences. The Governor of the Bank is appointed by, and reports to, the government. It is hopeless to demand and useless to expect that the rate of interest can be taken out of British politics. If Mr George imagines otherwise, then he is taking leave of reality, which is hardly a good start on his first day.

Yours faithfully,
TOBY JESSEL,
House of Commons.

front of them, specifically designed to reduce injury to a "loose body". Lap belts would increase the number of spinal and abdominal injuries.

The safety aspects of coach travel, and particularly the transport of children, are studied continuously, not only by the industry but also by academics and organisations such as the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents. In the light of these studies, considerable improvements are constantly being made to seat design, for instance, and body strength.

Yours faithfully,
TIM CECIL
(Managing director),
Buffalo Travel,
Enterprise Way,
Flitwick, Bedfordshire,
June 29.

Weekend Money letters, page 28

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

Non-stick solution for jam tomorrow

From Mr Terence J. Harris

Sir, Help is at hand for Mr Christopher Warner (letter, June 28) and his trouble in removing sticky labels from jam jars. A Californian winery gave me the solution: a mixture of ammonia and water. Of course the smell is rather off-putting.

Yours faithfully,
T. J. HARRIS,
7 Bolton Gardens Mews, SW10.

From Mrs Mary Thomson

Sir, No member of a Scottish Women's Rural Institute could fail to respond to Mr Warner's challenge.

I have found that even the most tenacious jam jar label yields to an attack on the following lines: soak in cool water; scrape with a knife; rub away remaining adhesive with kitchen paper soaked in white spirit; and polish off any residual smears with washing-up liquid.

Yours faithfully,
MARY THOMSON,
Glenbraemar House,
By Strachur, Argyll.

From Mrs Melissa Hawes

Sir, After soaking in hot water and trying to scratch off as much as possible with fingernails, the use of a coarse wire-wool pot scrubber works wonders for the most stubborn labels. Any sticky residue can be removed with eucalyptus oil.

Yours faithfully,
MELISSA G. HAWES,
21 Allard Crescent, Bushey Heath,
Watford, Hertfordshire.

From Mrs Valerie Garner

Sir, Pour hot water into the jar (keeping the outside dry). The label can then be peeled off with no trouble.

Yours faithfully,
E. V. GARNER,
72 Gillhurst Road,
Harborne, Birmingham 17.

From Mr Michael Morrison

Sir, As a fellow preserver, I suggest that Mr Warner leave the original label attached and cover it with one of his own designs.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL MORRISON,
16a Oakleigh Close, Whetstone, N20.

From Mrs Winifred Lawrence

Sir, Rub the area with a piece of the impregnated wadding sold for cleaning brass, and then wash thoroughly.

Yours sincerely,
WINIFRED LAWRENCE,
4 Orchard Leigh,
Austwick, Lancashire.

From Mrs Vera Harcombe

Sir, Petrol, unleaded of course, plus elbow grease.

Yours faithfully,
VERA HARCOMBE,
Wenmai Cottage,
Croop Hill, Herefordshire.

From Sir Robert Sanders

Sir, As so often, the Greeks have a word for it — ouzo. Since my wife's demonstration of its efficacy I have never drunk a drop.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT SANDERS,
Greystones Lodge, Broich Terrace,
Crieff, Perthshire.

From Mr Hugh Corbin

Sir, Not all jam-makers have dispensed with water-soluble glue. We have stuck to an adhesive which will dissolve in warm water. However, we do find that once jam and marmalade lovers have discovered our products they tend to form an attachment to them stronger even than a modern adhesive and they seldom bother to make preserves at home.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH CORBIN (Director),
Thursday Cottage Ltd,
Carnwell Farm, Uplymore, Devon.

From Mrs Lesley Bright

Sir, Last year, assembling baby-food jars to make pocket-money-sized preserves for a school fête, I asked a manufacturer why so much glue is needed.

I was told that these jars were not intended to be re-used as "they are made from recycled glass, and should not be subjected to the high temperatures involved in sterilisation, etc". I remained sceptical, and have safely used them, after removing the glue with a knife and a few oaths.

Yours faithfully,
LESLIE BRIGHT,
Greenstones, Rookery Way,
Haywards Heath, West Sussex.

From Mrs D. W. H. Birch

Sir, I, too, have had trouble with jam jars. Having had some success with my gooseberry jam in previous years, I submitted a jar to a local flower show last summer, only to find a terse note attached to it by the judge saying: "Honey jar not suitable for jam."

How can the shape of the jar possibly affect the jam? Besides, it was my best one, with a posh gold top, and I had chosen it specially for the job. It is hard to fight against discrimination in these troublous times.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICIA BIRCH,
Five Elms Cottage, Woodcuts,
Salisbury, Wiltshire.

OBITUARIES

SIR EDWARD DUNLOP

Sir Edward "Weary" Dunlop, AC, CMG, OBE, Australian surgeon and war hero who cured prisoners of war on the notorious Burma railway, died in a Melbourne hospital yesterday aged 85. He was born in Wangaratta, in the state of Victoria, on July 12, 1907.

EDWARD DUNLOP was by any standards a distinguished surgeon and rose high in his profession. But his name has a place of honour in Australia for his untiring struggle to alleviate the sufferings of prisoners of war who were compelled by the Japanese captors to work on the construction of the Burma-Siam railway.

A prisoner himself after being captured in Java in 1942, Dunlop was often beaten and tortured for standing up for the rights of his men and for the superhuman efforts he devoted to their care. On one occasion he was threatened with execution by disembowelling, and made to stand manacled to a tree with four bayonets jabbing into his belly while a Japanese officer impassively counted out the thirty seconds "grace" in which he might compose himself for death. At the last second he was reprieved, but during this terrible ordeal, as he recalled: "I pined for a cyanide pill".

Such mental and physical torment continued almost daily, but Dunlop refused to be cowed. Treating wounds often with the most primitive of surgical instruments which he improvised from whatever came to hand, he was, throughout those years of appalling privation on the infamous railway, an inspiration to thousands of men who might otherwise have abandoned all hope.

His efforts belied the nickname which he bore through life and by which he was universally known. It naturally had nothing to do with the deportment of this energetic man. In fact it arose through one of the more bathetic puns ever to have inflicted a sobriquet on an individual. In youth, his surname apparently gave rise to thoughts of a certain brand of tyre in the minds of his fellows. Tired, in its turn, metamorphosed into tyre... and thus the most inappropriate of nicknames was born — and stuck fast.

Ernest Edward Dunlop was the son of a farmer and grew up at Sheepwash Creek, in the northeast corner of Victoria. He was educated at Benalla High School and Victoria College of Pharmacy, Melbourne, before continuing his medical education at Melbourne University and St Bartholomew's hospital, London.

After house appointments at the Royal Melbourne Hospital and a year at the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne, he came to London to the postgraduate medical school at Hammersmith in 1938. In 1939 he was appointed a specialist surgeon to the emergency medical services at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington.

Before the war he had been a member of Australia's part-time mili-



"Weary" Dunlop, foreground, returning to pay tribute in 1987 to comrades who died working on the infamous "Death Railway" at Hellfire Pass near the Thai-Burmese border

lia, and when war broke out he took a commission in the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps where he was to spend the next six years, rising to the rank of colonel. In 1941 Dunlop served in Greece, Crete and North Africa. Then, in 1942, he was sent to Java as part of a hastily-organised unit thrown into the Dutch East Indies to try to prevent them from falling into the hands of the Japanese. As the Japanese advanced it was open to Dunlop to be evacuated, but he refused, saying that it was his duty to stay with the wounded in his hospital.

Taken prisoner, he was transported for forced labour in Burma and Siam. There, as leader of the POWs in a camp on the Burma-Siam border, for the next three years he became the inspiration and instrument of physical and spiritual survival to the thousands of captives toiling in atrocious conditions on the railway designed to link the two countries. In the words of a fellow POW: "When despair and death reached for us, Weary Dunlop stood fast, a lighthouse of sanity in a universe of madness and suffering". Through his bearing in the face of shared privation, and by the ingenuity with which he improvised medical care for them, Dunlop helped his fellow prisoners to endure the unendurable. Finally, on August 16, 1945, gaunt and emaciated as they were, the prisoners learnt that the Japanese had surrendered and that their sufferings were to have an end.

After the war, Dunlop stayed in Thailand for some time, playing a major role in helping repatriate POWs. Then, back in Australia, he continued his medical career and in 1967 he became consultant surgeon to the

Royal Melbourne Hospital. He was a particular expert on cancer and his book *Carcinoma of the Oesophagus: Reflections upon Surgical Treatment* was published in 1960. He was also concerned with alcoholism and drug addiction and chaired a number of committees dealing with the problem in his home state as well as being patron of the Australian Foundation on Alcoholism and Drug Dependency.

He was active in the international community, particularly among the developing nations of the Far East. After the Colombo Plan for economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific was established in 1950 he served as its adviser for Thailand and Ceylon, 1956, and for India, 1960-64. He was also instrumental in the launching of the Dunlop/Boon Pong Medical Exchange Foundation between Thailand and Australia, established in 1986 in honour of those who had worked on the Burma-Siam railway. This was one among many contributions he made to the health and welfare of populations across Asia and he was an honorary fellow of a number of national colleges of surgeons throughout the region in recognition of his work.

When Australia committed troops to the Vietnam war in the latter 1960s Dunlop doctored uniforms again. In 1969 he went to South Vietnam as leader of the Australian surgical team there, a position of great responsibility. One of his principal interests was the effects of their war experiences on the soldiers he had tended in Burma. He worked hard to better the plight of returning POWs, many of whom needed support and counselling for long after they had returned home. Among the many state and national

organisations through which he carried out this work was the Prime Minister's POW Relief Fund, of which he was chairman. In 1986 the government of Australia announced that a Melbourne research foundation to study war veterans' needs was to be named after him.

Dunlop was a fine sportsman. He was a university blue in both boxing and rugby football and was capped at rugby for Australia twice against New Zealand, in 1932 and 1934. While working as a surgeon in London he played for the Barbarians in 1939.

In 1986 he published *The War Diaries of Weary Dunlop*. These consisted of notes which he had made in Burma at the time of his captivity and, remarkably, had managed to conceal from the Japanese. They amounted to a unique contemporaneous record of conditions on the railway there.

Appointed OBE for his war work in 1947, he was created CMG in 1965 and knighted for his services to medicine in 1969. He was appointed a Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) in 1987.

Dunlop was a robust individual who seemed to epitomise much that is characteristic of the Australian mentality. He could be relied on as a stalwart "mate" when the going got tough. To the end he remained devoted to the corner of Victoria where he had been born and remained closely involved in the affairs of his state. Throughout his life he was sustained by a simple but strong Christian faith. He never bore a grudge against his captors for the suffering they had inflicted.

Dunlop married, in 1945, Helen Ferguson. She died three years ago and their two sons survive him.

ALADENA FRATIANNIO

Aladena "Jimmy the Weasel" Fratianno, a former Mafia hitman turned informer, died in his sleep in an undisclosed United States city aged 79. He was born in Naples in 1914.

DYING in his sleep was the most unlikely end to the life of Aladena Fratianno. He had admitted committing five murders and participating in six others — and ever since he became a government informer in 1977 after 30 years in the Mafia — his former associates had had a contract out on him. The Mafia "Godfathers" had good reason for wanting him dead. Once the top Mafia enforcer in Los Angeles, Fratianno, helped send to jail 30 of his former partners in crime, including six gang bosses, among them: Carmine "the Snake" Persico, the New York boss; Fat Tony Salerno, the New Jersey chief; Johnny "The Rope" Roselli of Los Angeles; and Johnny "Blackie" Licavori of Cleveland.

By testifying for the government, Fratianno broke the Mafia's oath of secrecy — "Omertà" — for which the penalty is death. "They tell you when you come in, you come in alive and you go out dead," he told a Los Angeles jury.

His account of Mafia life closely resembled scenes from the Hollywood film *The Godfather*. At his initiation in 1947 in Los Angeles, he said, there were 50 men in the room and a gun and sword on a table. The sword was used to draw blood and then he kissed each member on the cheek.

Fratianno was considered a skilled prosecution witness who would spend days preparing for trials. His graphic accounts of mob "hits," were delivered in matter-of-fact tones. Life in the mob was simple but deadly, he told an interviewer. "When the boss tells you to do something, you do it. You don't do it, they kill you."

He later said he became a government witness when he was confronted with murder charges in a Cleveland car-bombing and learnt at the same time that the Los Angeles mob had put a \$100,000 contract on him.

Born in Naples, Fratianno moved to the US as a young boy and grew up in Cleveland's Little Italy district. He received his nickname as a



boy for demonstrating to on-lookers how he could outrun police officers "fast as a weasel" after stealing fruit from street vendors.

He was one of the first recipients of protection under a federal government witness programme. In return for regular testimony in organised crime cases, he received a new name, a new identity, a new address and \$100,000 a year living expenses.

But in 1987, almost ten years after he first turned informer, the US Justice Department decided to curtail his living expenses, on the ground that even ex-Mafia informants were expected to try to earn an honest living eventually.

Fratianno was not pleased. "I am a dead man," he told a news agency. "They just threw me out on the (expensive deleted) street. I put 30 guys away, six of them bosses and now the whole world is looking for me. I'm 74 years old. Where am I going to work at my age?"

In fact, financially, Fratianno had put his underworld experiences to good use after leaving the mob, writing two books about his life and times as a mobster and appearing on television talk shows. His books, *The Mob: Vengeance is Mine* and *The Last Mafia* were illustrated with pictures of him with celebrities including Frank Sinatra. He claimed that the Mafia had infiltrated politics right up to the White House, and estimated its income from illegal activities at more than \$50 billion. After losing his government income, Fratianno went on television to appeal to the authorities to let him leave the country.

"My life is in grave danger," he said. "The Mob have a contract out on me and they mean to carry it through." Just how long he waited fearing that the next knock at his door might presage a violent death is not clear. His wife said he had been suffering for some time from Alzheimer's disease.

LORD BURNHAM

Lord Burnham, 5th baron, soldier and sailor, died on June 18 aged 72. He was born on October 22, 1920.

BENEATH the slightly serious, bespectacled and bearded exterior of Lord Burnham was a man of immense charm and joie de vivre. He was a keen sailor, and an outstanding navigator and helmsman, only rejected for the crew of the America's Cup contender *Sceptre* because of his age.

He was chairman of the Sail Training Association for 17 years and devoted himself to getting hundreds of young people to sea, cutting across national and cultural bound-

aries in the cause of international sporting friendship.

William Edward Harry Lawson was the son of the 4th Lord Burnham. He was a King's Scholar at Eton, where, despite being noted more for the permanent smudge of ink on his collar than for his athletic abilities, he laid the foundations of some long friendships.

At 19, on the outbreak of the second world war, he went to France with his territorial regiment, the Royal Bucks Yeomanry. He returned with them via Dunkirk. In 1941 he transferred into the Scots Guards, his family regiment, and fought with them in the desert and in Italy. After the

war, he stayed on for a distinguished career, during which he commanded the 1st Battalion in Germany and England from 1949 to 1962.

The highlight of his command was when his battalion won the Lawson cup — the major athletic championship of the Household Division — which was that year presented by Burnham's grandfather.

Burnham was a natural soldier and enjoyed his time in the Army but he also had a strong sense of family duty. When his father died in 1963 he inherited the family home — Hall Barn, Buckinghamshire, which was built by poet, Edmund Waller in 1660 — then in urgent need of

restoration. Burnham took early retirement in 1968 and brought the house back to its original glory.

He believed in teamwork. "The great thing about being a soldier," he would say "is working with people who are all on the same side. You all work to the same end, unlike the business world" — an attitude which made him famously easy to work with.

He served on the Bench as a JP for 20 years until 1990, was a deputy lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, president of the local British Legion branch, patron of many local endeavours and organisations, and a Freemason since 1950, rose to be Provincial Grand

Master of Buckinghamshire. He was also chairman of the Masonic Housing Association, which provides sheltered housing.

In 1970 he helped to organise the International Sailing Training Race, now called the Cutty Sark Tall Ships Race, and persuaded various countries including Russia and the Eastern bloc, to participate.

He persuaded them to adopt the "Cruise in Company" Scheme, whereby they mixed the crews up. "A Cruise in Company is like the sailing Olympics but without the politics." These cruises are not in fact competitive. He was a hard working member of the Royal Ocean Racing Club, a former Commodore of the Household Division Yacht Club, and many others.

As a friend, he was a good listener, a wise counsellor and a wonderful companion. A schoolmaster wrote of him in a report in 1932: "Bill is living his usual absorbed and enthusiastic life. It must be pleasant to enjoy living as much as Bill does."

He is survived by his wife Anne, whom he married in 1942, and by their three daughters (a son predeceased him). The title passes to his brother, the Hon Hugh John Frederick Lawson.

LORD JOICEY

Lord Joicey, 4th baron, country landowner, died on June 14 aged 68. He was born on February 28, 1925.

MICHAEL JOICEY was said to be the perfect country gentleman, putting back into the land what he took out of it. His policy was one of conservation, which he practised throughout his 15,000 acres of Northumberland, inherited from his coal-owning forebears.

His grandfather, a prominent northern Liberal MP, had been made a baronet 100 years ago, the barony following in 1906. But after taking his seat in the Lords on succeeding his father in 1966, Michael Joicey let his fellow peers get on with it and returned to the northern landscapes which he cherished.

There he not only managed his estates, near the Scottish border, but became an authority upon their teeming wild life. He built up the rural economy by encouraging the growth of crafts and cottage industries, and by establishing a burgeoning trade in local tourism.

One of his more spectacular achievements was the restoration of Heatherslaw corn mill, a double-wheeled water mill on the River Till which now grinds corn with the same



machinery and grindstones that were used when it opened in the 1840s. He even built a light railway to bring visitors from Eton — one of two whole villages on his estates.

Another was the preservation of Lady Waterford Hall, a former village school opened in the last century by Lady Waterford, the widowed artist who devoted the last 23 years of her life to painting murals of biblical scenes on the school walls. Joicey wrote a book about her unique masterpiece — now a village hall.

Yet Michael Joicey was not born to inherit. The younger son of the 3rd Lord Joicey, he did so only after his elder brother died of wounds received at Salerno in the second world war. Educated first at Eton, where he was captain of

the Oppidians, he himself joined the Coldstream Guards shortly after his brother's death and served with the 1st Battalion in the later stages of the war, crossing the Rhine with the allies into Germany.

Leaving the Army as a captain in 1947 he went up to Christ Church, Oxford, then joined Price Waterhouse to train as an accountant. But accountancy was only a means to an end — which was the successful management of the family estates. He returned to the home farm to help his father in 1953, moving into Eton Manor on inheriting the title 13 years later.

He soon became deeply involved in local charities and organisations, particularly the boy scouts and the church. He was made a deputy lieutenant for Northumberland eight years ago and served for 20 years from 1954 as master of the North Northumberland hunt. But Lord Joicey was a shy, retiring man with no great love of towns and public life. He sought to be a caring custodian of the countryside and a kind and accessible landlord to his tenants — and was at his happiest among them. He died, not inappropriately, while out mowing grass beside the River Till.

He is survived by his wife Elizabeth and by two sons and a daughter. His elder son James succeeds him as the 5th Lord Joicey.

PERSONAL COLUMN

TICKETS FOR SALE

WIMBLEDON Grand Prix Tickets - 1993. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 147th, 148th, 149th, 150th, 151st, 152nd, 153rd, 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726th, 727th, 728th, 729th, 730th, 731st, 732nd, 733rd, 734th, 735th, 736th, 737th, 738th, 739th, 740th, 741st, 742nd, 743rd, 744th, 745th, 746th, 747th, 748th, 749th, 750th, 751st, 752nd, 753rd, 754th, 755th, 756th, 757th, 758th, 759th, 760th, 761st, 762nd, 763rd, 764th, 765th, 766th, 767th, 768th, 769th, 770th, 771st, 772nd, 773rd, 774th, 775th, 776th, 777th, 778th, 779th, 780th, 781st, 782nd, 783rd, 784th, 785th, 786th, 787th, 788th, 789th, 790th, 791st, 792nd, 793rd, 794th, 795th, 796th, 797th, 798th, 799th, 800th, 801st, 802nd, 803rd, 804th, 805th, 806th, 807th, 808th, 809th, 810th, 811st, 812th, 813th, 814th, 815th, 816th, 817th, 818th, 819th, 820th, 821st, 822nd, 823rd, 824th, 825th, 826th, 827th, 828th, 829th, 830th, 831st, 832nd, 833rd, 834th, 835th, 836th, 837th, 838th, 839th, 840th, 841st, 842nd, 843rd, 844th, 845th, 846th, 847th, 848th, 849th, 850th, 851st, 852nd, 853rd, 854th, 855th, 856th, 857th, 858th, 859th, 860th, 861st, 862nd, 863rd, 864th, 865th, 866th, 867th, 868th, 869th, 870th, 871st, 872nd, 873rd, 874th, 875th, 876th, 877th, 878th, 879th, 880th, 881st, 882nd, 883rd, 884th, 885th, 886th, 887th, 888th, 889th, 890th, 891st, 892nd, 893rd, 894th, 895th, 896th, 897th, 898th, 899th, 900th, 901st, 902nd, 903rd, 904th, 905th, 906th, 907th, 908th, 909th, 910th, 911st, 912th, 913th, 914th, 915th, 916th, 917th, 918th, 919th, 920th,

New claim over Nadir judge plot

Documents were released by the fugitive businessman Asil Nadir yesterday to support demands for a public enquiry into the investigation of the collapse of the Polly Peck empire.

Anthony Scrivener QC, Mr Nadir's former defence counsel, in a separate move, called for an enquiry into an alleged plot to remove himself and the judge from the case in which Mr Nadir faces 14 fraud charges. Pages 1, 2, 17

Sex case sentence for review

The two-year probation sentence on a man who admitted attempting to have sex with an eight-year-old girl is to be reviewed by the Court of Appeal after the case was referred by Sir Nicholas Lyell, the attorney-general. Page 1

Somali ambush

Three Italian UN soldiers were killed when 800 men, in six tanks and 20 armoured personnel carriers, were ambushed by Somali militiamen. Page 1

Heritage backing

John Major backed the movement to preserve historic houses after a private meeting with the Prince of Wales. Pages 1, 8

School victory

Queen Elizabeth Grammar School in Penrith has been cleared in a High Court ruling to be the first grant-maintained comprehensive school to become selective. Pages 1, 5

ITV irks MPs

The House of Commons heritage committee rushed out a report yesterday deploring the efforts of the ITV companies to show *News at Ten* earlier. Page 7

Silence on 'killer'

Michael Sams, 51, who has admitted kidnapping estate agent Stephanie Slater but has denied

kidnapping and murdering Julie Dart, repeatedly refused in court yesterday to name a friend he claims killed the Leeds teenager. Page 3

Fringe wars

Bloody clashes were reported yesterday on the Russian border with Afghanistan and in the Georgian Black Sea province of Abkhazia, deepening Moscow's military involvement on the outskirts of the former Soviet Union. Page 15

Housing gloom

Britain will never again experience the house price boom it had in the 1980s, according to a report by John Wriglesworth of UBS Phillips & Drew. Page 7

Wealthy poor

The Highlands and Islands are looking forward to a vote in Brussels which might grant them the status of one of the most poverty-stricken areas in the European Community and accompanying aid from EC funds of £250 million. Page 10

MPs will vote to end all votes

Italian MPs are to be asked to approve a law which will make nearly 25 per cent of them redundant. The senate passed an electoral reform bill to prevent politicians from sitting in parliament for more than 15 years. About 160 in the chamber of deputies are beyond that limit. Page 15



Burning question: the Mexican navy wants to transfer 4,400 tons of sulphuric acid from this grounded Norwegian tanker, the Betula, to another vessel, but its owners say this is too risky and would prefer to tow it 200 miles out into the Pacific and sink it

Jobs secured: Swan Hunter, the threatened Tyneside shipyard, yesterday won a lifeline from the government which safeguards 1,700 jobs to at least the end of next year. Pages 1, 21

Westland success: Westland Helicopters has been awarded £385 million in damages by an international tribunal after a 13-year court battle over a contract in the Middle East. Page 21

Store wars: The golden era of growth for Britain's food retailers is coming to an end, according to Archie Norman, chief executive of supermarket group Asda. Page 21

Markets: The FT-SE 100 share index ended the trading account on a gloomy note, falling 31.1 to 2,857.7, as a result of further disappointing news about the American economy. Sterling edged forward, with the pound closing up 38 cents at \$1.5095 and up 15 pennings at DM2.5578. Page 24

Tennis: Pete Sampras and Jim Courier will make it an all-American final when they play for the Wimbledon singles title tomorrow. In the semi-finals, Sampras beat Boris Becker in straight sets, and Courier defeated Stefan Edberg. Pages 38, 39, 40

Crickets: Martin McCague, playing his first match for England, took two wickets and a fine catch as Australia ended the second day of the third Test 39 runs behind on 262 for five. Pages 37, 40

Motor racing: Damon Hill, driving a Williams-Renault, claimed provisional pole position for the French Grand Prix but may be forced to play second fiddle to his French team-mate, Alain Prost. Page 34

Golf: José María Olazábal rediscovered his form yesterday with a five-under-par 67 to take a one-shot lead into the third round of the Carrolls Irish Open tournament. Page 39

Casualty games: Behind the languid exterior, coffee-house chess is a cut and thrust intellectual battle. Roger Boyes discusses the curious magic of the cafe game. Page 1

Atlas travel: Forsaking comfort, Andrew Pierce tries an activity holiday in Morocco that could include white-water rafting, camel trekking, Atlas mountain biking and sub-Saharan desert hiking. Page 2

Organic holidays: Backache and blistered fingers are not enough to put off the many volunteers who are prepared to work for the fun of it on organic farms. Joanna Gibbons reports. Page 3

Deen-deet dishes: Frances Bissell finds inspiration in the fishy flavour and pots of recipes to be found in Maine. Page 5

Redgrave's Russian play: With Vanessa Redgrave starring, *Maybe*, by Mikhail Shatrov, has been given its world premiere in Manchester. Shatrov saw 30 relatives go to the gallows or the gulags in the Stalin era. Weekend page 14

Much ado on Shaftesbury Avenue: Shakespeare is back on Shaftesbury Avenue for the first time since the 1950s. Mark Rylands plays Benedict in *Much Ado About Nothing*. Weekend page 14

Homage to Louis: Jazz musician Allen Lowe and his band has issued a compelling "tribute" to Louis Armstrong on disc, featuring the work of the legendary 86-year-old trumpeter. Doc Cheatham. Weekend page 14

Unknown Schubert: Among new classical record releases reviewed are discs of little performed Schubert songs, by the superbly tender singers Peter Schreier and Lucia Popp. Weekend page 14

Comedian Brian Conley turns comic actor in *Outside Chance* (ITV, today, 7.30pm). Weekend page 16

A poor structure

There is now a serious risk that structural funding will be treated by the EC as a weapon with which to defeat European unemployment. Page 17

Cost of single parents

The price of single parent families ought to be a legitimate area of discussion. What ministers ought to be able to discuss is the damage done to the social fabric by fatherless child-rearing. Page 17

Sporting heroines

When Steffi Graf steps on to the Centre Court this afternoon to meet Jana Novotna in Wimbledon's hundredth women's singles final, they will personify a revolution in all sport. Page 17

Simon Jenkins

Many chief police officers in their years' time will look back to "the good old days" when policemen were directly answerable to local leaders. Page 16

Alexander Chancellor

A failed assassination attempt against a former Iraqi president is the most proportionate response for the failed attempt on Mr Bush, but there would have been problems. Page 16

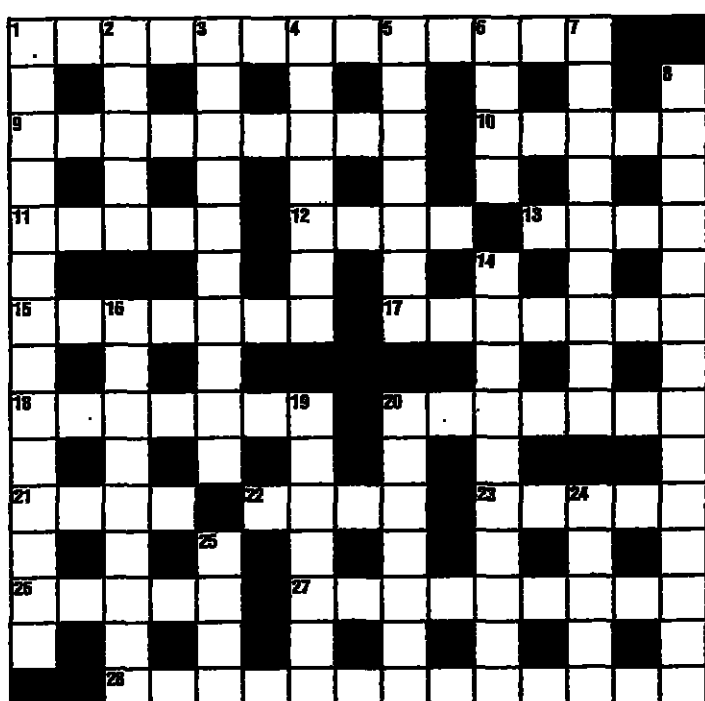
Why the number of invalidity benefit claimants has doubled in eight years. Page 17

Secretary of State Warren Christopher said last month: "The Clinton administration will provide strong and visible support for the movement to freedom in Africa." Nigeria is one of the prime places to start. The Washington Post

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,273

A bottle of Knockando, a superb Speyside Single Malt Scotch whisky uniquely bottled only when at its peak of perfection rather than at a pre-determined age, together with a beautifully crafted stationary rack will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address



ACROSS

- A following wind may be kept waiting (4,5).
- In a predicament, but equal to the occasion (2,3,4).
- Head right in pursuit (5).
- It's evident how 3 starts (5).
- Musician in love has sweetheart, according to rumour (4).
- I was in charge of the country (4).
- Investigation in France that cuts into this month (7).
- Craft, if at sea, constitute this (7).
- Part of a story is written in verse (7).
- Very small amount of gruel given to convict (7).
- Low-ranking airmen have a penny deducted from fringe benefits (4).
- Card game said to be the forerunner of party game (4).
- Henry employed in agreeable and fitting post (5).
- Loss of house by Hamlet's friend is kept in proportion (5).
- Following about Muslim ruler, leader of Turkey (9).
- Shoot down flyer and end up in sensational book (5,8).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,267

BREACH SPEEDWAY
E N I H E
SUGARBEET ROND
M A D N H I D M
I N G E S T A E R M I T E
R E H N G N N
C O S T A D E A L I N G S
H R G N N
S N A P S H O T A R O M A
A U I H M U L I
B O T A N I C R O O S T E R
A T O K O H L L
T U R I N E M P H A S I Z E
T E N E T E N S
S W E E T I S H C A V E L S

DOWN

- Distraught rector I solaced in somewhat hypocritical display of grief (9,5).
- Unusual state observed in mineral (5).
- Where attackers went to extremes (4,3,5).
- Take advantage of daring deed (7).
- Characteristic of fire-walker in haste (7).
- Every European army cherished heroic leaders (4).
- Weak fellow opening unfinished sleeping draught (9).
- Visionary scientist finally devised summer of teeth (14).
- Wild revelry is a natural development (10).
- Nimble Paddies get up and dance (9).
- Attendant to sovereign, English king, called into question (7).
- Children accept a little money or finance (7).
- Refuse to tease (5).
- A low point for Phoebe (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,272

SUBTLE FUGUE MARC
A T T L E
M E R R Y M A K E R S T E M
E N M K N S I P
E N M O N E Y G R U B B E R
E U L A S I E
V A N C O U V E R I R O N S
E F G I R N T S
N A O M I G L Y C E R I N E
H R C I L S C O D
A M E N A B L E N E S S
N S L A O M E T
D I S T U N G U I S H A B L E
E T E N K R A
D O N E G E N T I L E F O L K

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0800 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702
Doncaster, Herts & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wiltshire, Dorset, Devon	705
Berks, Bucks, Oxon	706
Beds, Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs	708
West Mid & Sh. Glos & Gwent	709
Straps, Herefords & Wores	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincoln & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
NW England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
NE England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
SW Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife, Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Glasgow & E Highlands	724
NW Scotland	725
Cairnness, Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
C. London (within N & S Circles)	732
M-ways/roads M4-M1	733
M-ways/roads M1-Charford T	734
M-ways/roads M2-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Angles	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

A.A. Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

Australia \$	2.38	2.18
Austria Sch	18.08	17.58
Belgium Fr	65.50	61.48
Canada \$	2.07	1.91
Denmark Kr	10.46	9.86
Finland Mk	5.15	4.38
France Fr	6.15	5.43
Germany DM	2.70	2.28
Greece Dr	365.00	335.00
Hong Kong \$	12.37	11.57
Italy Lit	1.18	1.08
Japan Yen	245.00	222.00
Netherlands Gld	180.00	161.50
Norway Kr	3.05	2.78
Portugal Esc	200.00	182.00
South Africa R	5.50	5.15
Spain Ptas	201.50	182.50
Sweden Kr	12.35	11.48
Switzerland Fr	2.20	2.05
Turkey Lira	17000.00	16000.00
USA \$	1.61	1.48

Notes for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: H E Butler, Uffculme, Cullompton, Devon; R O'Donoghue, Eaton Rise, London; P M Stringer, Henleaze Gardens, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol; J Ritchie, Marlow Avenue, Crosby, Liverpool; P McNamara, Singleton Scarp, London.

England and Wales will have a dry, warm day but there may be patchy drizzle over the southwest and west of the Pennines at first. After some early rain, Scotland will brighten up this afternoon, but rain, possibly heavy at times, will return this evening to the northwest. Northern Ireland may have a dry day but there is a threat of drizzle over western counties. The south will be warm and humid but fresher in the north. Outlook: generally dry.

MIDDAY: 1=thunder, 2=drizzle, 3=fog, 4=sun, 5=rain, 6=cloud, 7=rain, 8=sun, 9=cloud, 10=rain, 11=sun, 12=cloud

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Wind	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Wind	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	14.4	14.4	14.4	14.4	14.4	14.4	14.4	14.4	14.4	14.4	14.4
Edinburgh	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Belfast	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Cardiff	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Birmingham	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Manchester	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Sheffield	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Leeds	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Nottingham	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Liverpool	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Southampton	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Bristol	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Exeter	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Plymouth	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
London	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Edinburgh	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Belfast	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Cardiff	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Birmingham	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Manchester	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Sheffield	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Leeds	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Nottingham	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Liverpool	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Southampton	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Bristol	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Exeter	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Plymouth	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0

These are Thursday's figures

London 8.50 pm to 4.18 am

Edinburgh 10.00 pm to 4.28 am

Manchester 10.10 pm to 4.17 am

Perthshire 10.00 pm to 4.48 am

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Perthshire 10.00 pm to 4.48 am

Perthshire 10.00



PROFILE 23

The champion of Plymouth's royal dockyard



MOTOR RACING 34

Hill stamps his mark on French grand prix



TENNIS 38-40

Sampras eases through to Wimbledon final

WEEKEND SPORTING FIXTURES
Page 37

THE TIMES 2

SATURDAY JULY 3 1993

BUSINESS EDITOR
Robert Ballantyne

WEEKEND MONEY

POOR RETURNS



The pensions "revolution" is five years old, but it is not a happy birthday for the impoverished.
Page 25

FRENCH LIFE

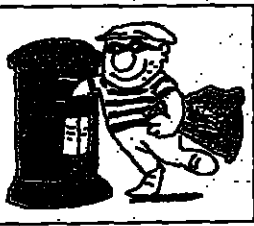
Expatriates flaunting their wealth in France could find the taxman is an unwelcome presence.
Page 26

BT3 OFFER



Prospectuses and application forms for the final sell off of BT shares will start going out on Monday.
Page 27

POST HASTE



Cheques winging their way through the post from a postal account are vulnerable to theft.
Letters, page 28

CAR BOOT TIPS



Setting up a car boot stall is not money for old rope — there are techniques to be learnt.
Page 30

THE POUND

US \$ 1.5095 (+0.0018)
German mark 2.5578 (+0.0015)
Exchange index 81.1 (+0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT-SE 100 2957.7 (+31.1)
Dow Jones 3484.52 (+28.02)
Nikkei Avg 19821.46 (+303.15)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 6%
3-month interbank 5 1/4%
US Federal Funds 3%
3-month Treas Bill 2.96-2.98%
Long Bond 6.89%

CURRENCIES

New York London
£/\$ 1.5075 £/DM 2.5572
\$/DM 1.6980 \$/Yen 168.24
£/Yen 108.78 £/Fr 6.5780
\$/Fr 162.24 £/SDR 1.0732
SDR 1.3688
London Foreign market close

GOLD

London Fixing (5)
AM 380.00 PM 388.10
Close 388.70-389.10
New York
Comex 388.05-388.65

RETAIL PRICES

RPI 141.1 May (1.3%)
* Denotes midday trading price

Swan Hunter lifeline saves jobs for 1,700

By Philip Bassett
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

SWAN Hunter, the threatened Tyneside shipyard, yesterday won a lifeline from the government which safeguards 1,700 jobs until at least the end of the next year.

The government's move prompted delight among the yard's management, employees, trade unions, local MPs and in the Northeast generally and widespread hope that a buyer may be found for the yard shortly.

The defence ministry has agreed with the receivers for the yard that it should complete work on three Royal Navy frigates, which not only guarantees a programme of immediate work but puts the yard in a markedly better position to secure future work.

A move signalled in the Commons this week by John Major.

The frigate work may also increase the likelihood of a buyer being found for the yard, since potential buyers would be much more likely to be interested in a working yard with a complete workforce than one lying dormant.

Jonathan Aitken, defence procurement minister, said the agreement gave the receivers time to continue their efforts to find a buyer.

Local MPs said they had been told by the yard's receivers that they were expecting to secure a deal for a new owner to take over the yard in a matter of weeks.

Under the terms of the deal worked out between the ministry and Price Waterhouse, the receivers, the yard will have to make a "timely" delivery of the three Type 23 frigates Westminister, Northumberland

Receivers at Swan Hunter say the government's move gives time to tender for more contracts and to find a buyer to secure the shipyard's long-term future

and Richmond — probably by the end of next year.

Support for the deal is tied to the maintenance of agreed productivity targets worked out in what Price Waterhouse said were several weeks of detailed and complex negotiations with the defence ministry, but the receivers said yesterday that they had "every confidence" that the yard's management and workforce would rise to the opportunity the deal offered.

Gordon Horsfield, one of the joint receivers, said of the deal: "It represents a clear expression of confidence by the Ministry of Defence in the skills of the Swan Hunter workforce, the quality of the ships that they build and the facilities available in Tyneside."

Swan Hunter's management, which brought in the receivers after losing a £170 million helicopter carrier contract to VSEL, the Barrow-in-Furness-based shipbuilders, said: "It is excellent news — it gives the company the base for future life with shipbuilding continuing on the Tyne."

The agreement will allow Swan Hunter to maintain its bid to win an order from Oman for two patrol boats, with likely follow-on orders for a further eight. Mr Major will inform Oman about the decision on the frigate work in the hope of helping the yard with the Oman contract.

Price Waterhouse said: "Of themselves, these two pieces of good news do not provide solutions to the overall problems

of Swan Hunter but, taken together, they represent important steps on the way to attracting a buyer for the business."

The yard is also keen to bid for work to replace the Navy's landing ships — the Sir Redivere, Sir Geraint, Sir Percivale and Sir Tristram. Swan Hunter built the replacement for the Sir Galahad, which was sunk as a war grave in the Falklands.

Dick Gonzalez, shop stewards' convenor, welcomed the announcement, and said: "It gives us hope for the future because it proves there is someone with a lot of faith in Swan Hunter and the workforce and this must send out good vibes to prospective new owners."

John Smith, the Labour leader, who was touring the shipyard yesterday as the announcement was made by the receivers, also welcomed it, but said: "It should have been done some weeks ago — it should have been done in principle, subject to tender negotiations."

He urged the government to restore confidence in Swan Hunter as quickly as possible by pressing for it to be given a mixed status so it would qualify for subsidies available to merchant shipbuilders.

Nick Brown, Labour MP for Newcastle East, said the continuing work on the three frigates would not be enough to secure all jobs at the yard in the next year, and stressed the need for new orders.



Norman conquest Archie Norman, who is reviving Asda

Golden era of food retailing growth is over says Asda chief

By Susan Gilchrist

THE golden era of growth for Britain's food retailers is coming to an end as saturation finally takes hold, according to Archie Norman, chief executive of Asda, the supermarket group.

Mr Norman, who was brought in to revive the ailing group in 1991, unveiled better than expected pre-tax profits of £142.1 million for the year to May 1, 1993, compared with a loss, depressed by a hefty £451.6 million exceptional charge, of £364.8 million last time.

In marked contrast to leading food retailers, such as Sainsbury, Tesco and Asda, which have consistently dismissed suggestions that the industry is reaching saturation point, Mr Norman bluntly said: "The halcyon days of food retailing in this country are over."

With the leading players investing about £2 billion in new stores over the next few years, Mr Norman believes gross margins will inevitably decline as competition increases. "I find it surprising that other practitioners pretend it is not happening," he said.

However, he insists this does not necessarily mean lower profits. He said: "Our objective is to create a business capable of sustained growth in this environment."

Turnover at Asda Stores grew £88 million to £4.4 billion last year with a 3 per cent increase in like-for-like sales as the benefits of the group's "Asda Price" campaign, directed at establishing the group as Britain's leading value-for-money national supermarket chain, filtered through.

Mr Norman said: "Our like-for-like growth has been on

average 2 per cent below the industry, but since last summer we have been outperforming our main competitors."

Operating profit rose even further, with an increase of 6 per cent to £196.1 million driven by productivity improvements.

In addition to permanently low prices on everyday items, growth has been fuelled by a greater emphasis on fresh foods and a refocusing of the non-food range, which now concentrates on just five product areas — clothing, entertainment, toys, stationery and homeware.

Further growth is expected in the coming year as the "renewal" experiment, aimed at addressing the historic neglect of Asda's mature 200-store chain, is rolled out from the three initial pilot stores, where it has produced sales increases of more than 20 per cent, to a further 40 outlets. Three Deas stores, the group's discount format, will also be opened.

While Mr Norman's "valued recovery" at Asda appears to be under way, the Allied business continues to lose money.

Although the Allied carpets stores are closer to breakeven, the Maples furniture stores remain a problem. An exceptional £6 million provision has been set up to cover rationalisation costs.

The group's debt mountain has been cut drastically, with borrowings down from £677.8 million to £76.4 million thanks to the proceeds of January's £347 million rights issue, the sale of its MFI stake and disposal of surplus sites.

A final dividend of 1.1p, up from 0.85p, brings the total payment to 1.6p, against last time's 2.1p.

Westland wins £385m damages

By Our City Staff

WESTLAND Group, the helicopter manufacturer that gave its name to one of Britain's most sensational political upheavals, has been awarded damages of £385 million following a 12-year legal battle.

Westland Helicopters, the largest of five Westland subsidiaries, has been locked in a legal dispute since 1980, when an agreement to set up a Lynx helicopter factory in Egypt collapsed in the wake of the Camp David peace accord between Egypt, Israel and America.

Two years previously, Westland had signed a contract to build 250 Lynx helicopters for

four members of the Arab Organisation for Industrialisation (AOI) — Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Egypt. Only 380 Lynx aircraft are flying today, and the order represented a massive coup for Westland.

The Arab British Helicopter Company was set up as a joint venture to build the Egyptian plant, with Westland taking a 30 per cent stake. After Camp David, relations between Egypt and the AOI states soured and the agreement collapsed. Egypt seized the assets of the partly-built factory and Westland took its

case to the Arbitral Tribunal, part of the international chamber of commerce. In Geneva, seeking substantial damages for breach of contract.

In June 1991, the tribunal ruled against AOI and the member states, excluding Egypt. Now, the Tribunal has fixed the amount of damages at £385 million including accrued interest, although the final payment could be reduced by up to £90 million to allow for interest and advance payments.

Westland, which made a pre-tax profit of £26.7 million in the year to September 1992 on turnover of £460 million,

reacted cautiously to the news from Geneva, describing it as yet another stage in a long-running battle. The AOI may appeal against the size of the award.

A Westland spokesman said: "We're glad that we've reached the next stage but are conscious that it is not the end of the process." Westland has reduced the size of its helicopter workforce at Yeovil, in Somerset, from 8,000 to 6,000 since 1987.

Both Michael Heseltine and Sir Leon Brittan resigned from the Thatcher cabinet in the aftermath of the so-called Westland affair.

City works on outside ring of steel

By Jon Ashworth

ON THE stroke of midnight, the City of London was sealed off by police in a determined push to deter terrorist bombers. Ten years ago, the "ring of steel" would have encircled one of the greatest concentrations of financial expertise to be found anywhere in the world. Then, Big Bang meant the electronic revolution in share dealing. More recent events have changed the City's outlook.

In 1993, more than six years after the electronic revolution, banks, trading floors and stockbroking firms have decamped from the City proper en masse. The London Stock Exchange has been turned into offices, and the police, as they stop and search traffic at one of the eight entry points, are guarding more a collection of traditional City symbols than actual City workers.

Much has changed since the days when to have a nameplate more than a casual stroll from Bank or Finsbury



Circus was considered unthinkable. Today, two of Britain's main clearing banks are based outside the new security zone. For the past three years, the major high street banks have been shifting large chunks of their retail operations to regional towns in an attempt to escape London overheads. Thousands of workers have been made redundant or relocated. Computer centres are dotted around the country.

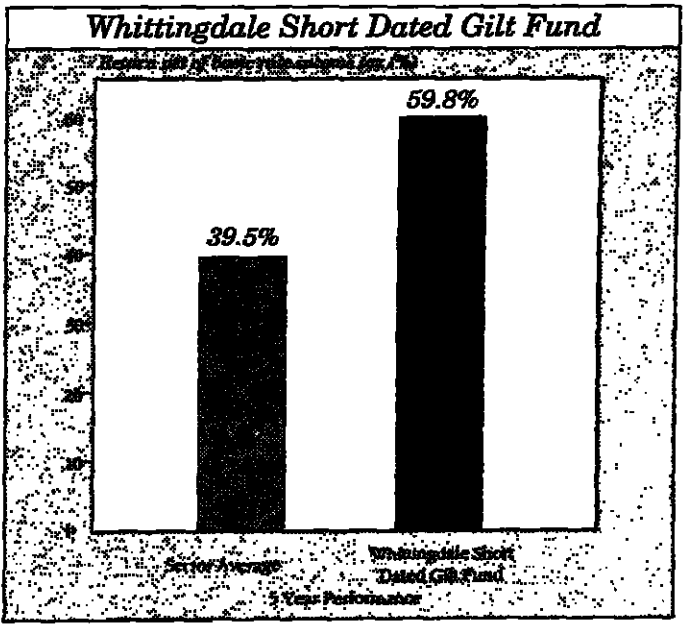
One of the greatest shake-ups has come on the trading

location on the edge of the "ring of steel". Canary Wharf, home to several financial houses, tightened security a matter of days after the Bishopsgate bombing. All vehicles entering the vicinity pass through a checkpoint manned by private security guards.

Accountants, building societies, law firms, regulators and employers' organisations all make their homes elsewhere in London. The majority of Britain's top 100 companies are headquartered outside the Square Mile.

Reaction from those firms lying beyond the cordon has been guarded. Security, first tightened during the Gulf war, is constantly under review. As a spokesman for a 3,000-strong accountancy firm put it: "It's important to bring these large numbers of people into the City each day. All their contacts are there and we have a duty to look after them." The City may be emptier, but has some spark in it yet.

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Sir James demonstrates the goldsmith's art



Sir James: gold fever

By COLIN CAMPBELL
MINING CORRESPONDENT

Fourteen words, neatly strung together and scattered to the world from the lips of Sir James Goldsmith, the international entrepreneur, yesterday worked wonders for gold.

Sir James had said in explaining his decision to sell a further 8.49 million shares in Newmont Mining — which should reap him \$474 million — that it was his "intention to invest the majority of the proceeds of this sale in physical gold".

The impact of his words was to lift the London gold price by \$11.70 to the day's high of \$392.20 an ounce, its best level since January, 1991, to send all international gold shares racing

ahead, and to lift Johannesburg's all-gold index by 101 points to 2,044 at one stage, before the advance was pared to a 49 point rise.

Gold closed in London at \$388.25 for a \$7.75 rise in the day, but dealers still described yesterday as "wonderful".

In March, gold was at a 1993 low of \$326.50 an ounce. Then came publication of Gold Fields Mineral Services annual Gold 1993 survey that highlighted strong Far East (and in particular Chinese) demand to help awaken interest. George Soros, the international currency dealer, and Sir James then announced their initial transactions in Newmont shares and physical metal, since when the gold market has hardly looked back.

Precious metal analysts suggest

"gold looks good for \$400", but caution that in bull markets investors only want to hear the good news. The mid-week cut in German interest rates has helped to improve sentiment and, ahead of what Sir James may or may not do, no one wants to be short of the metal, or of gold shares.

Analysts do, however, point out that Sir James' words need to be read carefully "intention to invest... in physical gold". Sir James' latest offering of 8.49 million Newmont shares currently priced at \$55 would yield him \$474 million, and allow him to buy almost 1.23 million ounces of the metal. When he sold a tranche of Newmont shares in May, Sir James would have realised \$284 million. But Sir James has not yet completed his latest deal,

and he will not be paid until he has. His words "physical gold" could also turn out to be futures, options and/or warrants, and Sir James could always change his mind.

He will, however, retain 3.4 million shares of Newmont Mining, while RIT Capital Partners, his October 1990 corporate partner in Newmont, will retain 1 million Newmont shares.

Euan Worthington, a gold analyst at Warburgs, says Sir James has been very clever in announcing his intentions. "He has kick-started the gold market, and others are picking up the reins," he said.

But he added that while the price direction of gold remains in the realms of uncertainty, it was clear that "sentiment is positive".

Rentokil raises the stakes in takeover bid for Securiguard

By MARTIN WALLER
DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

RENTOKIL Group has unleashed a knock-out blow with a 28 per cent increase in its hostile offer for Securiguard and backed the new bid with the purchase of 29.7 per cent of its quarry in the market.

The new offer, at the top end of expectations, is 345p a share against an initial offer of 270p and looks likely to succeed. City sources say it values Securiguard at £75.7 million and will not be raised unless a second bidder comes in.

Securiguard has not accepted the offer, but a formal statement said meetings were being sought with the Rentokil board "with a view to considering a recommendation of the revised offer". The company's shares jumped 25p to 340p, 5p below the cash terms on offer, making it easy for Rentokil's brokers to stand in the market and offer 345p cash a share, as permitted under City rules.

Clive Thompson, Rentokil's chief executive, said he had spoken to institutional shareholders in the past few weeks since the first bid, which gained few acceptances, and they had indicated that the issue was one of price.

The stake was bought in the market from 12 institutions. Before the bid, 90 per cent of the shares were held by 31 firms, with ten of them controlling over half the stock. Mr Thompson said in the 48-hour run-up to the revised bid he



Price sensitive: Clive Thompson decided to increase the offer after sounding out Securiguard shareholders

had repeatedly tried to contact the Securiguard management but had been rebuffed.

The cost of the bid would come from Rentokil's existing cash balances, or from borrowings that would cost about 6 per cent in interest charges a year. "We're fairly certain

that £76 million will cost us," Mr Thompson said. On analysts' forecasts, even before better-than-expected interim figures from Securiguard this week, the bid would be slightly earnings-enhancing for the rest of the latter's financial year, he added. But Rentokil is

adopting a more cautious approach, saying the bid should merely be earnings-neutral over the same period. Securiguard's existing businesses of security services, cleaning and maintenance and communications were only earning margins of 4-5

per cent, he added. "We would certainly be able to move the margins into double figures over a period, I should think three to four years."

Rentokil hopes to meet the Securiguard board for a formal acceptance of the offer this weekend or next week.

Sale of Qantas stake postponed

THE Australian government has delayed the sale of its remaining stake in the national airline Qantas, where British Airways took a 25 per cent holding in March (Martin Waller writes).

Ralph Willis, the finance minister, said the government has decided to reschedule the sale until after the current financial year, which started

on July 1, on the advice of its financial consultants and Gary Pemberton, the carrier's chairman. Advisers had said the government would obtain substantially better value from the float if it was postponed to 1994-5.

BA paid £304 million for its Qantas stake. A spokesman said the company supported the Australian government's

decision. The news was seen as positive for BA, as a sale of Qantas for a proportionately lower price than the stake fetched in March would suggest BA had paid too much. The Qantas float had been expected this October or November or early in 1994. But the trading environment for international aviation had deteriorated recently, Mr Willis said.

France cuts key interest rates

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

FRANCE, Spain and Portugal yesterday joined other European countries by cutting interest rates in the wake of the Bundesbank's larger than expected monetary easing on Thursday.

The Bank of France lowered its key intervention rate by 4 point to 6.75 per cent, bringing it to the same level as the new German discount rate. France's five to ten-day lending rate was cut 4 point to 7.75 per cent. French money market rates are now well below German equivalents, with three-month money trading at 6.90 per cent compared with 7.40 per cent in Germany.

France, desperate to provide its ailing economy with relief, will continue to try to push rates lower over the summer and keep the pressure on the Bundesbank to continue easing monetary policy, but any further cuts, independent of action from the German central bank, will depend on how the franc fares. The franc weakened after yesterday's announcement of French rate cuts, which suggests that the French authorities may have to wait.

The Bundesbank has two other opportunities to move rates lower before its summer recess, but is regarded as unlikely to do so. Council members return to business on August 26 but France will be anxious to get its own rates lower before then.

Sterling continued to firm against the mark, moving up to DM2.5578 at the close from DM2.5563 on Thursday. The British authorities have stood firm with unchanged interest rates, despite rate cuts throughout Europe this week. Britain's gold and currency reserves rose by an underlying \$64 million in June after a \$78 million rise in May, reflecting sterling's relative strength on foreign exchanges.

The mark remained weak yesterday, undermined by Thursday's interest rate cuts, helping the dollar to remain stable despite disappointing unemployment figures. Non-farm payrolls, the main indicator of employment, rose by only 13,000 in June compared with forecasts of a gain of 139,000 and manufacturing jobs fell by 53,000, adding to a 43,000 drop in May.

IBM to announce further reduction in staff

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON
IN NEW YORK

INTERNATIONAL Business Machines, the American computer company that last week confirmed a fundamental shake up and job cuts in its UK operations, is expected to announce another \$2 billion charge against profits, cut more jobs and slash the dividend for the second time in less than a year.

The news is due with second quarter results at the end of the month when Wall Street says IBM will lose \$200 million. An IBM spokesman declined to comment yesterday but industry sources say the computer group will double the number of job cuts this year to at least 50,000. This may be accompanied by assets sales.

Staff cuts since the 1985 peak are now 155,000, most of them in the past two years. Analysts expect the annual dividend to be more than halved to \$1 a share, a far cry from its \$4.84 peak in 1991.

Last year, IBM wrote off a total of \$11.6 billion as the world's largest computer maker plunged \$4.5 billion into the red, hit by lower sales of its core mainframe business and an industry price war in personal computers. It raised an additional \$3 billion this year issuing new debt and preferred shares, but said general redundancy packages being offered — and working out at around \$100,000 per employee — would be phased out after June 30.

IBM said the final analysis of top management's forecasts for personnel and cost reductions will not be finished until the second half of this year and warned that both charges and the resulting cash requirements could continue to be significant.

In the UK, it has done what many long-serving IBM employees never thought possible: it is preparing to sack staff. Similar moves are expected in the US, should the latest round of redundancies and restructuring prove insufficient to bring costs in line with income.

Although stocks often move higher on news of layoffs on sentiment that the company is restructuring and tackling its problems, shares in IBM slipped in early trading on Wall Street.

An investment analyst said: "How many times have they done this in the last year?" He added: "IBM lays off people and they still lose money."

US Air is preparing to eliminate 200 flight attendant jobs in September through early retirement, extended leave and attrition. The airline, 20 per cent owned by British Airways, says recent productivity agreements make 200 of its 9,000 flight crew jobs unnecessary.

Bredero in agreement over Centre West

BREDERO, the company in which Slough Estates has a 49 per cent stake, has reached agreement in principle with Barclays and a consortium of banks over the refinancing of its Centre West office development in Hammersmith, west London. But talks continue over refinancing of the group's £110 million of borrowings. Bredero wrote down Centre West by £77 million during the year to December 31. Added to that were other property write-downs of £21 million, losses of £3.8 million on property sales and a provision of £2 million for refinancing costs leaving Bredero with a £106 million loss for the year (£45 million deficit). The write-offs have turned Bredero's balance sheet surplus into net liabilities of £24 million. Bredero's £10 million preference shares, held by Slough Estates, are due to be redeemed in equal tranches on December 31, 1993 and 1994. Allan Chisholm, managing director, said there were insufficient funds at present to buy them back. He said Centre West had 167,000 sq ft of office space left. Bredero's rental income was £4.5 million last year out of total turnover of £70.8 million but the interest charge was £11 million and the loss per share is 292.7p.

Clayform placing boost

CLAYFORM Properties has been quick to capitalise on its re-rating after the investment by Martin Landau, the former Imry deputy chairman. His acquisition of a 5 per cent stake in June sent the shares soaring from 19p to 35p. The announcement of a £27 million placing yesterday pushed the price up a further 5p to 40p. Robert Fleming is placing 80 million shares at 35p to institutions. Mr Landau is taking up his entitlement of 2 million shares and Flemings is placing a further 3.1 million shares with him, partly subject to clawback.

Iraqi talks hit oil price

OIL prices yesterday fell below \$17 for the first time since January on prospects of the UN letting Iraq export limited amounts of oil again. Despite the prospect of diplomatic complications to any Iraq-UN deal, oil fell 20 cents to \$16.88 for a barrel of North Sea Brent for delivery in August, 70 cents down since Wednesday. A fall below \$17 in January led Opec to cut output. The UN banned Iraqi oil exports after the 1990 invasion of Kuwait, but talks are to begin next week on plans to allow \$1.6 billion of sales to fund humanitarian help.

Greencore enquiry

THE Irish Stock Exchange has completed its investigation into the placing of the Irish government's 25.4 million shares in Greencore, the food group. The exchange said it had reported to the professional standards panel of the London Stock Exchange who will decide whether to submit the report to a disciplinary committee. The investigation was launched after problems emerged with the placing, carried out in April by Davy Stockbrokers, a subsidiary of Bank of Ireland Group.

Fisons near to unit sale

FISONS is on the verge of selling its last remaining consumer health unit in South Africa but other businesses marked for disposal are proving harder to dispose of, Roy Thomas, finance director, said. Fisons said it is selling its Australian consumer health business to Parke Davis, a subsidiary of Warner-Lambert, for \$34 million (£15 million). However, the company's remaining horticulture business in Britain has been taken off the market because offers received have been inadequate, Mr Thomas said.

Fullers rises to £8m

FULLER Smith and Turner, the independent London brewer, has weathered the brewing price wars to record pre-tax profits of £8.3 million (£7.8 million) in the 53 weeks to April 3. The final dividend rises 12 per cent to 5p per ordinary share, up 10 per cent for the year. Anthony Fuller, chairman, right, said the Beer Orders had failed to free up the market, partly because the new pub companies, which account for one in six UK pubs, were able to sidestep the guest beer provision.



Rubicon calls for £7m

RUBICON, the shopping group, is paying £9 million for High Speed Production Holdings, a maker of precision metal components. The group also announced a 7-for-11 rights issue at 120p a share to raise £7 million towards the cash element of the cash-and-shares acquisition. Rubicon's preliminary results show a 48 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £1.2 million in the year to end-May. Earnings per share were 8.1p on an enlarged capital base compared with 28.7p last time. There is a second interim dividend of 2.5p, 4p for the year (nil).

MIM buys zinc smelter

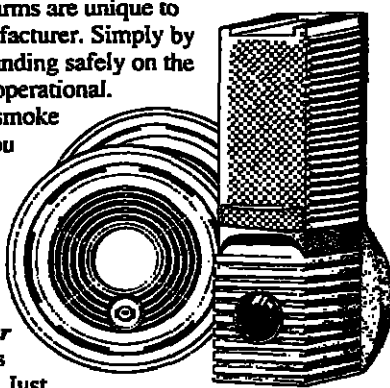
MIM Holdings, the diversified Australian mining group that already has precious and base metal interests in Britain, is taking over the UK's only zinc smelter at Avonmouth, near Bristol, from fellow Australian group Pasminco for \$67 million, plus £3.9 million. MIM says the acquisition should help further improve the profitability of the group's zinc operations. The deal, which is subject to government approval, brings with it a manufacturing plant at Blaxwick in the Midlands.

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London Electricity lifts payout

By MARTIN WALLER
DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

LONDON Electricity has taken a £20 million one-off charge from its cut from the deeply unprofitable retailing business, which involved the closure of two thirds of its high street branches and the sale of the rest to management.

The exceptional cost held back pre-tax profits in the year to end-March to £145.5 million, slightly up on the £142.5 million reported for the previous year. Retailing trimmed its losses by £3 million but still drained away £8.5 million.

London was not allowing the high cost of disposing of the business to limit the dividends paid to shareholders. The company came in with another large rise in a reporting season that has featured unexpectedly strong dividend growth. A 13.9p final payment



Urwin: cost-cutting

increases the total by 16.1 per cent to 19.5p.

London's 1.93 million customers will benefit from a £7.50 rebate on their quarterly bills in the autumn. Including a 2 per cent tariff cut from

April, average bills will therefore fall 4-5 per cent this year.

Roger Urwin, the chief executive, said without the one-off costs earnings per share would have been 20 per cent up, well ahead of the dividend rise. Net cash flow of £67 million allowed gearing to drop marginally to 14.4 per cent despite the £90 million acquisition of the electricity distribution networks at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted airports.

John Wilson, the chairman, said: "We believe the worst effects of recession are behind us and we are well placed to benefit from the recovery."

London cut its workforce by a further 427 people during the year and reduced costs by 7 per cent in real terms, Mr Urwin said. The shares, in an electricity sector that was again sporting strong rises, jumped 10p to 476p.

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BUSINESS PROFILE: Michael Leece

Engineer on the bridge at Devonport

Ross Tiesman meets the chief executive whose company has just won a £5 billion contract to refit Trident submarines

Michael Leece does not look the kind of man to revive the age-old war between the Scots and the English. He's small, for a start. Not short, not thin, just small. And there is a certain wistful shyness in the blue eyes magnified by metal-framed spectacles. Engineer, not extrovert, is written all over his face. But Mike Leece is no wimp.

Less than two weeks ago, he won an extraordinary commercial and political battle. At the end of a 24-month campaign, Mr Leece and his supporters torpedoed the Scottish lobby, two leading industrial groups and, it is claimed, some ministerial commitments by persuading the government to award the £5 billion contract to refit Trident submarines to the Devonport Royal Dockyard, in Plymouth. Workers at the rival Rosyth yard, in Fife, on the north shore of the Firth of Forth, are still nursing a sense of anger and betrayal.

That is not hard to understand. But for this 48-year-old shipbuilder's son from Barrow-in-Furness, the future of the Scottish yard and the 4,300 it employs would be secure for decades. Until Mr Leece sent an unsolicited offer to refit the Trident vessels to the defence ministry two years ago, Rosyth was assured of the work. Now the future of the Scottish yard hangs on a ministerial pledge to ensure that alternative surface ship refitment comes their way for a while.

In Plymouth, though, they speak of the chief executive of Devonport Management Limited (DML) with gratitude. Mentioning this brings a reaction akin to embarrassment. "That is for others to say," mumbles Mr Leece, eyes veering away.

Mr Leece was not a popular man when he first came to Plymouth six years ago. His brief, as head of the firm which had just won the contract to run Europe's biggest dockyard complex, was to introduce commercial efficiency to an operation grown flabby on decades of Spanish practices. Moreover, he was to do so at a time when defence cutbacks and engineering improvements were reducing the amount of work available. So he began with the brown envelopes. In less than six years, 6,000 employees have been shed, paring the workforce to 5,400.

But overhauling was just a symptom. "The yard was 15 to 20 years behind the times in terms of attitudes to people,



Dock brief: Michael Leece was given the task of introducing commercial efficiency to an operation grown flabby on decades of Spanish practices

attitudes to the customer, investment in information technology and working practices," Mr Leece says.

After the investment of £60 million of public money, Devonport is now more capable, more focused on the needs of the Royal Navy, and accustomed to filling spare capacity with civil business ranging from luxury yacht refits to building the fleet of British Steel round-the-world sailing boats.

But it was the government's Options for Change defence review which triggered the Trident bid. "Peter Whitehouse, the business development director, did a SWOT analysis," says Mr Leece. "Strength, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. It was very clear that there could be a very real threat to the survival of Devonport in

the second half of the 1990s." So Ewan MacLachlan, head of nuclear and support services, drew up original proposals to refit an existing dock at Devonport to adapt the massive new submarines.

The names of team members come readily to Mr Leece's tongue. He believes in roles and delegation. These are the men who have taken charge of the yard's day-to-day running for the past two years.

Because the saving to the taxpayer from the Devonport Trident proposal was hundreds of millions of pounds, Rosyth responded with a series of cut-price alternatives. Mr Leece and his opposite number at Rosyth — Allan Smith, Babcock Thorn managing director — found themselves

locked into an increasingly acrimonious battle for public support. As was readily apparent, it was not a role which came easily to either. Mr Leece had displayed plenty of tenacity, both in his career and as a scrum-half on the rugby field, but nothing had prepared him to act as a public figurehead.

At the age of 17, he followed his father, a fitter, into the Vickers shipyard at Barrow. A master at his secondary modern school had talked him out of trying to become a fighter pilot. As an engineering apprentice, he found his *metier*. On qualification, he transferred to the ministry of defence, working as a production inspector at Barrow checking work on some of the submarines he now refits. But it didn't suit. "My culture and the civil service

culture were not going to have a long future together," he says. Newly wed at the time, he rejected the idea of going to university, partly for financial reasons.

Instead, he went back to Vickers. A pattern was being set for his career. A few years away from Vickers, followed by a few years back, each time higher up the engineering design ladder. He was half in, half out, during the four years from 1980 to 1984 when he headed the team responsible for the design of the tension leg system devised to anchor the Conoco Hutton oil platform in deep water.

Mike Leece was at the controls when the rig was put into place. "It was the second biggest highlight in my life," he says. And Trident? He nods and gives a quick grin, looking exposed. The paper he

wrote on the rig design won him his prized qualification as a chartered engineer. A woodcut showing its principles forms a paperweight on his desk.

Three years as engineering manager at Brown & Root (UK) complete the path to Devonport. Brown & Root is a one-third partner in DML, along with Weir Group and BICC.

The Devonport battle, he readily admits, has been tough. He is looking forward to a holiday. "You don't realise just how tired you are until it is over," he says. Work has also imposed strains on family life. "The person who suffers most has to be my wife who copes with my three o'clock in the morning ideas when I put the light on to write down lots of things I should have thought of earlier," he says.

"I think over the last six months the pendulum has swung too much in favour of work," he admits, adding: "I would like to redress the balance."

This is not the first time career has taken precedence. Mr Leece has two grown-up daughters. One, Yvonne, works in the yard's personnel department, the other in the graphics department of a local newspaper. Mr Leece says that although they don't hold it against him, his career moves disrupted their education. Looking back, he says: "I should have thought more about the total family." It is a sentiment not uncommon among those who have slogged their way up the hard way. Mr Leece also regrets not spending more time in the Lake District, where he is fond of walking.

Not that he will have much time on his hands in the years to come. If he stays at DML, as he insists he intends, there will be further job losses, the development of the Trident facility and an aggressive programme of bidding for surface ship refits offered for competitive tender to manage.

On the day that Devonport won the Trident deal, Mr Leece was carried shoulder high through the yard by some of his workers. He believes starting as an apprentice has given him "an understanding of some of the concerns and abilities and limitations of some of the people out there who do the bulk of the work." Diffident at the outset in his dealings with outsiders, local observers say he has emerged from the campaign as a leader in the community which now accepts him as one of its own.

Expectations have been created: within his area, Mr Leece appears ready to deliver. "I think the squeeze on the defence budget is such that sensible ideas are being received enthusiastically by the ministry of defence," he says. "There are more things we can do to deliver better value to our customer." Mike Leece has not finished making waves.

Names bank on the family silver

By SARAH BAGNALL
INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

LLOYD'S of London, recently accused of having turned "disaster into an art form", is now turning to art to avert financial disaster for its names. Christie's, the fine art auctioneer — in association with Courts & Co, the private bank that boasts some of Britain's wealthiest clients — is offering badly hit names a chance to use their "chateaux" to carry on underwriting at Lloyd's.

Having sold the second home, the portfolio of the chip shares and some of the assets less painful to part with, many names are now being forced to plunder their beloved works of art as the latest offerings of their up-market car boot sale. Family heir-



Namesake: Christie's is offering a helping hand

looms, paintings, vintage motor cars, jewellery, antique furniture and pop memorabilia are all threatened with the auctioneer's hammer.

Philip Hoffman, deputy managing director at Chris-

tie's, said: "We are getting on average two or three phone calls a day from Lloyd's names." One 70-year-old name who has lost nearly £2 million at Lloyd's is "virtually selling up everything ... He

has built up a collection of impressionist, contemporary and old master paintings, of which he has had to sell up to £1 million worth in the last two years," he added.

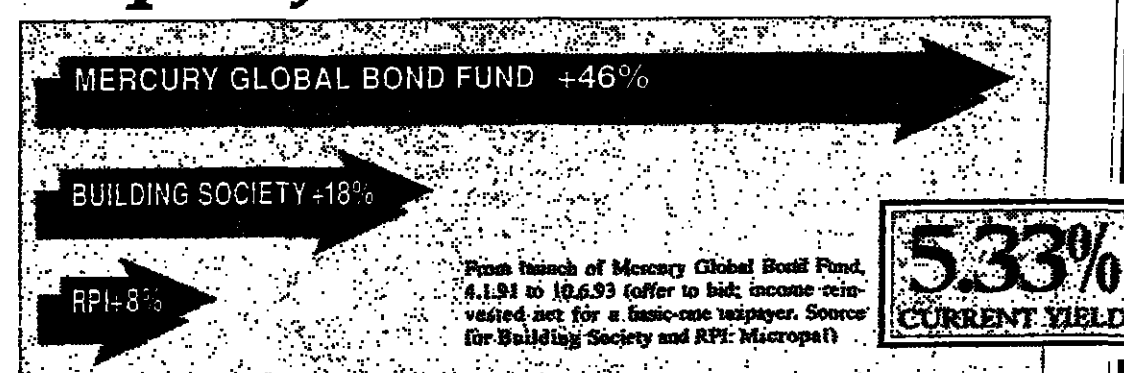
Many names have been holding on to their works of art in the vain hope that the 1990 underwriting year's losses would fall elsewhere. However, last week's announcement that the losses had outstripped all expectations, and previous year losses, to reach a hefty £2.915 billion put an end to that optimistic hope.

The plea for help has also come from members' agents, the people who provide advice to names. "Because of the level of enquiries we have come up with our novel scheme," said Mr Hoffman. Under the plan, names are able to obtain a bank guarantee from Courts & Co for up to 40 per cent of the value of their chateaux. This bank guarantee is then allowed to count as "funds at Lloyd's", providing names with a vital source of assets to count for solvency purposes.

For this service, cash-strapped Lloyd's names have to reach into their pockets to the tune of £500 plus VAT. There are also potential tax advantages for the beneficiary of a name who dies while still underwriting at Lloyd's. "A client with non-exempt works of art can put those assets into the scheme and, if he dies, may be able to get 100 per cent inheritance tax relief," Mr Hoffman said. If a name puts ten paintings worth £1 million into the scheme he gets a £400,000 bank guarantee and as a result he is eligible for £400,000 worth of paintings free of inheritance tax.

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ATT 950705

If you've got it, best not flaunt it in France

By SARA MCCONNELL

BRITONS inspired by the books of Peter Mayle to go to live in France should avoid flaunting wealth and possessions unless they want to see most of it ending up in the taxman's hands, according to a new guide to living in France.

The *Guide to Living in France* is the third in a series of guides for British people considering moving abroad and is written by Blackstone Franks, the chartered accountant. The guide says that extensive revision of the French tax system has failed to stop an estimated one in three non-salaried taxpayers from underdeclaring "a substantial proportion" of their income.

"Tax evasion in France is rife, which is one of the reasons there is a system of taxing individuals based not on income declared, but on the basis of apparent wealth and lifestyle," the guide says.

Anyone who has a home in France and spends more than 183 days of the tax year there will have to pay French tax. Even spending less than that in France will not exempt someone who spends more time in France than anywhere else or whose wife and children live in France. Those working in France or receiving income mainly from French sources are liable to



French leave: Peter Mayle, one of the Britons in France, where tax can be a worry

French tax. French taxpayers are responsible for completing tax returns and are not meant to wait until they are sent a return by the authorities.

The French taxman will not, however, always take at face value everything he is told. The guide says that the taxman can enquire into your

lifestyle to discover, for example, how many yachts and aeroplanes you own. "If there is a discrepancy between your apparent wealth and your declared income, which you cannot explain away, then further tax assessments will be raised," it says.

Besides outlining the com-

plexities of French taxation, the guide explains the law on buying property in France.

It also explains how to shed UK residence for tax purposes, so as to avoid being taxed in this country on worldwide income and capital gains. Some people could unwittingly become UK residents, even if just passing through, if they have "available" accommodation, perhaps only a bedroom set aside for use. Those working overseas without ever working in the UK will normally not have this difficulty. If they come to the UK to report to their employer, this counts as a "merely incidental duty". Attending a board meeting is not considered an incidental duty and could put some people at risk of being considered UK residents.

The tax position of expatriates on UK capital gains, letting a property in the UK, pensions and UK inheritance tax is dealt with in the guide.

The guide costs £6.99 from Blackstone Franks, Barbican House, 26-34 Old Street, London EC1Y 9HL.

□ Windram Miller, the European tax consultant with offices in Malaga, Spain, has produced a card setting out tax rates in Spain in 1993. It shows tax bands, rates and reliefs on income tax, wealth tax and succession tax. It also gives details of corporation tax and taxes on non-resident companies with property in Spain.

The indexed rise for calculating the indexation allowance on assets disposed of in May 1993.

Month purchased	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987
January	—	0.708	0.625	0.547	0.466	0.411
February	—	0.701	0.618	0.536	0.451	0.405
March	0.776	0.698	0.613	0.520	0.439	0.403
April	0.741	0.674	0.592	0.489	0.445	0.386
May	0.729	0.667	0.586	0.482	0.442	0.385
June	0.724	0.663	0.582	0.479	0.443	0.385
July	0.723	0.654	0.584	0.482	0.447	0.386
August	0.723	0.647	0.569	0.478	0.442	0.382
September	0.724	0.640	0.566	0.478	0.435	0.378
October	0.715	0.634	0.556	0.476	0.433	0.371
November	0.707	0.628	0.551	0.471	0.421	0.365
December	0.710	0.624	0.553	0.469	0.416	0.366
January	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
January	0.366	0.271	0.181	0.084	0.041	0.029
February	0.361	0.262	0.174	0.078	0.035	0.017
March	0.355	0.256	0.162	0.074	0.032	0.013
April	0.334	0.234	0.128	0.060	0.017	0.004
May	0.329	0.227	0.118	0.057	0.013	—
June	0.324	0.223	0.114	0.052	0.013	—
July	0.322	0.222	0.113	0.055	0.017	—
August	0.308	0.216	0.101	0.052	0.016	—
September	0.302	0.210	0.091	0.048	0.012	—
October	0.289	0.201	0.083	0.044	0.009	—
November	0.283	0.191	0.085	0.041	0.010	—
December	0.279	0.188	0.086	0.040	0.014	—

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Final share offer gets a ring of confidence

BT3 draws interest of millions

By Sara McConnell

PROSPECTUSES and application forms for the third and final sale of shares in BT will start going out on Monday to those who have registered through a share shop or the share information office.

An estimated 14 million people have registered their interest in the £5 billion sell-off with the share shops and a further 13 million have registered with the information office. Another 2.4 million have been automatically registered with the office because they are BT employees or existing shareholders. About 100,000 existing customers of share shops have also been automatically registered.

As with other BT issues, private investors will pay for their shares in three instalments. Everyone will pay 150p per share on the first instalment, a discount of 10p on the 160p per share instalment will pay.

Those applying through share shops will get a greater allocation of shares than applicants through the information office, if there is a big demand. In an attempt to persuade people to hold on to their shares, applicants through share shops and the information office will be



The dialling detective: Mel Smith as Inspector Morose, who has fronted the BT3 drive

offered a choice of incentives, as they have been in previous privatisations.

They can opt for a discount of 10p per share on each of the second and final instalments (on allocations up to 1,000 shares) or a one-for-15 share bonus on shares held continuously until July 31, 1996 (on

allocations up to 1,500 shares). The second instalment for every one, payable in March 1994, will be 140p a share and the price of the third instalment, in October 1994, will depend on how institutions and private investors bid in the international offer.

Book-building for this will

start on July 8 and end on July 16, with the price being provisionally announced on July 18. Applications will have to be in by July 14 at 10am, but share shops applying on behalf of their customers may have earlier deadlines. Dealing in the partly paid shares will start on July 19. Holders

of partly paid shares will be eligible for the fully paid dividend of 9.45 pence a share, paid on September 30, as long as they are on the register on September 1. The annual yield on those shares will be 13.4 per cent.

The minimum application for private investors will be 120 shares, which will cost £180 for the first instalment. Those wanting to participate in the retail tender have to apply for a minimum of 2,000, but this is not guaranteed and they will not qualify for discounts or incentives.

However, some stockbrokers report that there has been more interest in participating in the retail tender than in the public offer, despite the decision of many brokers not to offer their clients this option.

Investors have until July 8 to register their interest in participating and can apply for shares in both the public offer and the retail tender.

Justin Urquhart-Stewart, director of planning at Barclays Stockbrokers, said many people were being tempted by the option of putting BT shares into a PEP. Those wanting to apply through the retail tender to do so have to apply for a minimum of 1,000 shares or a maximum of 2,000.

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Keeping a shine on gilts after £3bn auction

By Richard Irving

TREASURY mandarins can sigh with relief this weekend after the sale of a record £3.25 billion worth of government bonds on Wednesday.

Investors and market-makers lodged bids to cover the issue just over 1.1 times, a performance that many observers found disappointing but remarkable nevertheless, given the scale of the task.

That the issue got away at all should comfort Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, as he struggles to fund government spending.

Indeed, far from showing signs of indignation, government bonds continue to find favour with investors, notably the Japanese, who were rumoured to be very keen before the sale.

Sceptics argue that luck is on the Treasury's side at present. They point to the timely emergence of French investors as big supporters of gilts, encouraged by the recent bull run in their own bond market, and to the Germans, disillusioned with economic pros-

pects. UK bond yields to go below 7 per cent by the year-end, bringing them more in line with other European bonds. Such a move would imply a capital gain of about 4 per cent.

Factor in the guaranteed income that government bonds generate and investors could see returns of up to 15 per cent. Mark Dampier, of Whitechurch Securities, an independent financial adviser, claims: "Not spectacular, but not bad for a basic-rate taxpayer, who will find himself lucky to get 4 per cent in the building society," he said.

The market's recent performance will undoubtedly inspire more converts. In the three years to June 1, the FTSE 100 index posted a gain of just under 50 per cent, outperforming the more recession-prone FTSE all-share index by 13 per cent and the FTSE 100 index by nearly 30 per cent.

However, while investors who opt for a professional managed fund such as a unit trust or investment trust could have expected to match much of this performance — the average unit trust specialising in the sector turned in a 37 per cent gain over a similar period — those who take on stock selection themselves would be fortunate to bank similar gains.

Further headway may, however, be difficult for a market that will have to absorb the best part of £1 billion of gilts a week for the next nine months.

In April, National Savings extended the gilts in which it deals to all stocks to issue, and raised the maximum limit on orders that it will accept in any stock per day from £10,000 to £25,000.

The measures were designed to attract smaller investors, who can arrange via National Savings to have interest paid gross of income tax.

At about £4 per £1,000 nominal of stock, the dealing charge is also competitive against the commission rates of the stockbroking community. In spite of its new attractions, however, National Savings remains a postal service, so investors run the risk of the market moving against them while their order is in the post.

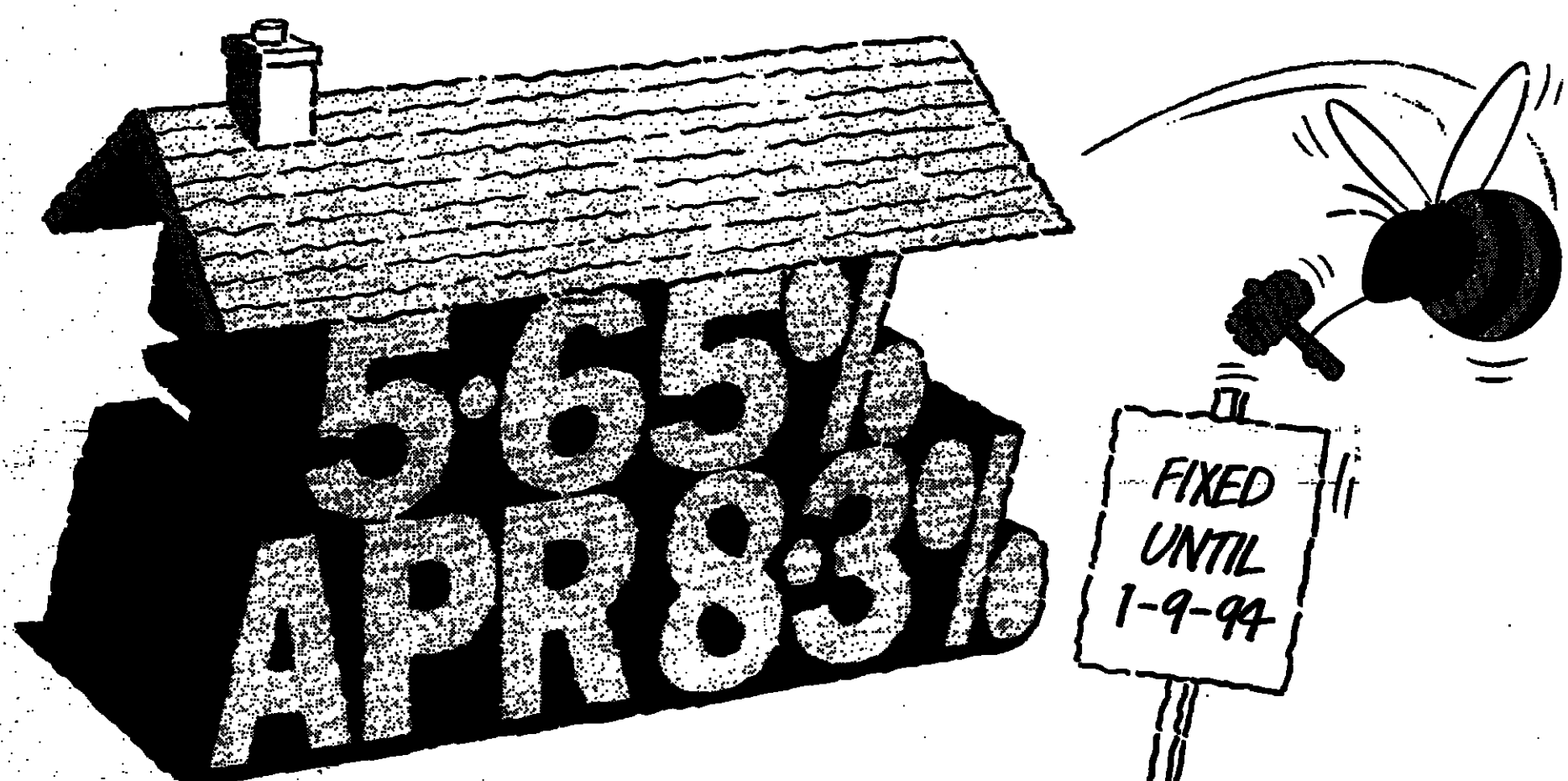
The changes emphasise the government's pressing need to raise cash through gilts. Were the government alone in its hunger for cash, many investors would feel a lot happier. However, with a string of rights issues vying for cash, and with BT3 under way, some analysts wonder where the money will come from to keep the gilt market afloat.

Mr Dampier said: "The spectre of a massive funding programme has been with us for the best part of the year. If it's not in the price of gilts by now, it never will be."

He added: "All the latest expectations on the economy point to a gradual recovery with moderate growth — that will eventually erode the government's borrowing requirement."

However, investors are unlikely to miss the boat. Given the gilt market's current popularity, they will no doubt be offered another chance to buy. And another. And another.

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Flat-owners in wrangle over sound-proofing

BY SARA MCCONNELL

FIVE owners of flats who say that the builders of their block, finished in 1989, ignored government regulations on sound-proofing, have been told by the National House Building Council (NHBC) that the fault is not covered by the council's ten-year warranty.

The local authority has also denied liability, although it is up to authorities to make sure that builders comply with the regulations.

One of the owners moved into his flat in a Yorkshire town and discovered that the sound-proofing of his second-floor home was "abominable". He said: "When someone opens the gate into the car park area and scrapes the bolt along the ground, it sounds as if it is right in my bedroom."

He is also disturbed by noise from the flat below, the living room of which is underneath his two bedrooms.

Buyers of new houses find it more difficult to get a mortgage without an NHBC or other warranty, widely seen by lenders as an insurance against shoddy workmanship.

In the first two years, the warranty covers all defects in newly built properties caused by the builder not conforming to NHBC standards. Major damage caused by structural defects is covered for the next eight years.

However, concern is growing in some quarters that the cover offered by the NHBC is too narrowly drawn and many people do not realise that they normally have no comeback through the warranty if builders have ignored regulations.

The NHBC said that its warranty covered failure to comply with building regulations only if the NHBC itself had acted as building control inspector during the construction, checking to see that the builders were complying with the regulations.

Even then, home owners would not be covered if the defects in a building did not immediately threaten health and safety. There are similar restrictions on the liability of



Sound and fury: Colin Outram with letters on his dispute

local authorities, following a 1990 court ruling.

It is up to an NHBC-registered builder to decide whether he wants the NHBC to act as building control inspector or whether to leave this to the local authority and just get a warranty that will cover structural defects but not breaches of regulations.

Colin Outram, the secretary of the management company that runs the block of flats, first complained to the local authority on behalf of the

residents, but was told that there were no prescribed standards for sound insulation. The only rule is that it must be "reasonable".

Mike Clements, the local authority's director of technical services, said that, in most cases, homes built in certain areas were "deemed to comply" with building regulations. In the case raised by Mr Outram, the builder had actually changed the materials after applying for planning permission, but

the ones that he had used were still considered by the local authority to be acceptable.

The Department of the Environment, which draws up building regulations, said that local authorities were generally responsible for administering them.

The rules say that the walls or stairs separating one house from another or from another part of the same building should resist "the transmission of airborne sound", while floors must "resist the transmission of impact sound". Detailed guidelines are given for the densities of floors, stairs, walls and joists, but are not statutory requirements.

After complaining, to no avail, to the ministry and to the local government ombudsman, Mr Outram was told to try the NHBC. The flats were sold with a ten-year warranty. However, Mr Outram said that because the local authority had acted as building inspector, the NHBC was not responsible and even if it were, its liability did not extend to sound-proofing.

Mr Outram said the warranty was not worth the paper it was written on. He added: "The purchase of a new property cannot guarantee that someone is making a sound investment because there no longer appears to be any quality or structural control over the building industry. The building regulations are not enforced and no one can be held responsible for any failure to comply with them."

The government-run Building Research Establishment tested the block and concluded that sound-proofing was below a "reasonable" level. However, the local authority told Mr Outram that it was not necessary for a completed house to pass such a test to be considered "acceptable".

Mr Outram is now seeking at the very least to force the local authority to meet an estimated £1,500 bill to put in cavity wall insulation. "I am looking for someone to get their knuckles rapped for the audacity of ignoring building regulations," he said.

Home guarantee apology sought

BY RODNEY HOBSON

THE National House Building Council is hoping for an apology from the insurance ombudsman over a claim that the ten-year guarantee on new homes is of little benefit after the first two years.

According to Dr Julian Farrand, the ombudsman, the guarantee, given by the NHBC, provides "minimal" cover. An NHBC spokeswoman said: "This appears to be a stick phrase. It is not true and we are hoping for an apology." The argument has come to a head because of a long-running dispute involving Gerry Hogan, who bought a house in Stevenage, Hertfordshire, in 1984. When he failed to reach agreement with the NHBC over a list of grievances, he took his case to the insurance ombudsman.

In rejecting his claim, Mrs Andrea Bonal, ombudsman's assistant, wrote: "At first sight, much of the cover appears extensive. It is only when you examine the small print of the conditions and limitations of liability that its minimal nature is revealed."

She said that the insurance policy defined the NHBC's

liability in "a most precise and legalistic manner". When Mr Hogan queried the letter, Dr Farrand wrote: "Nothing you now say seems sufficient for me to differ from the view previously expressed."

The NHBC spokeswoman said of Mrs Bonal's comment: "We have complained about this phrase. Exactly the same words have appeared on more than one letter. The ombudsman's office knows perfectly well that the coverage is not minimal. It is all set out in simple English."

She said that more than £19

million was paid out in claims last year, which demonstrated that the NHBC was not hiding behind small print. The insurance ombudsman's office declined to discuss the matter.

The NHBC ten-year guarantee covers all defects for the first two years. From the third year, home owners are covered against structural defects.

Mr Hogan bought his property during the Thatcher government's campaign to move people from council housing into home ownership. The house was built in a joint scheme by Stevenage Borough Council and Mowlem, the construction company.

He claims that damp spread across one wall in 1989 and has subsequently been found on another wall and under the stairs. Removal of bricks has revealed blocks with no mortar in the vertical joints, outer bricks where daylight can be seen through the mortar, rubble in the cavity and metal ties (designed to allow damp to drain off the outer wall) caked in mortar.

The Building Research Establishment found blocks were out of alignment and a horizontal crack along the gable wall. Stevenage's technical services department said the outer brickwork should be removed and rebuilt from scratch because "the structural stability of the dwelling is in question".

The dispute has left Mr Hogan in a cleft stick. His household insurer says that the damage to his property is structural and will not pay for repairs. Mowlem and the NHBC deny that there are structural defects.

Without admitting liability, Mowlem has offered to carry out work, but Mr Hogan, the company and the NHBC have been unable to reach agreement.

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Brokers start to target the less wealthy

By RUPERT BRUCE

OVER the past few years — and particularly since returns from building society deposits have fallen — many private client stockbrokers have been shedding their traditional image as fussy old firms that cannot be bothered with anyone but the very rich, and have begun to target the less wealthy.

Many are prepared to look after portfolios as small as £10,000 or £20,000, while others have no minimum. Typically, these portfolios will be channelled into one of a range of products, such as investment or unit trust portfolios.

Fred Carr, chief executive of Carr Sheppards, which has a packaged investment management service for people with a minimum of £20,000, said: "Old money by and large won't be shifted, and new money gets itself sorted pretty quickly. Where the market is the retirement market."

Beyond that, of course, there are six million or so people who, according to ProShare, have become shareholders since 1980.

Stuart Valentine, director of research at ProShare, said: "I think brokers are beginning to realise that among those people with three or four companies, there are some that have money stuck in the building society and they are now getting nervous as interest rates have come down."

One of the first brokers to target the less wealthy was Killik & Co, with offices in Hampstead, Chelsea, and London's West End. It was set up in 1989 to target what it calls the "asset poor, income rich". These are successful people between 45 and 60 who have typically finished paying school fees, are close to paying off their mortgages and can save substantial sums through personal equity plans.

Matthew Orr, a partner in Killik, said: "I think getting to your customer will be the story

of the nineties. The history of stockbroking was that you had a small core of wealthy individuals passed down through the generations. They were interested in protecting their customer base rather than developing it... I think that [developing the customer base] is just happening now."

Brokers are also seeking customers through wider advertising. Albert E. Sharpe, a broker with offices in Birmingham, Bristol, and London, recently ran a campaign on Classic FM.

Many of the brokers that focus on the lower end of the market have introduced a range of financial services.

Dunbar, Boyle and Kingsley, a London firm, has a service called the Over 50s Retirement Plan, for which anyone with more than £10,000 is eligible. In many cases, the translation from old-fashioned stockbroking partner



Carr: selling to the elderly

ship to modern business began with 1987's Big Bang shake-up.

Peter Reynolds, marketing director of Albert E. Sharpe, said: "Soon after [Big Bang] we turned into a corporate body. We began to impose management structures and we became more professional."

At many brokers, this has meant the gradual introduction of fees, instead of commission. This ensures that brokers do not go through periods of feast and famine.

Richard Twydel, marketing manager of Henderson Crosthwaite, summed up this quiet revolution. "There has been a realisation by stockbrokers that the client is king."



Past reflections: the days when stallholders simply laid out their wares are gone

Tips for car boot traders

By LIZ DOLAN

CAR boot sales are now rivaling market stalls and bric-a-brac shops and jumble sales as popular haunts of bargain hunters and second-hand junkies.

However, what was, in the cash-rich 1980s, simply a day out for enthusiastic amateurs selling unwanted junk clogging attics and cellars has turned into an opportunity to make a reasonable income from goods acquired more cheaply elsewhere.

To this end, this month's edition of *Business Opportunities Digest* carries a selection of tips for all car boot sale traders. Gone are the days when stallholders simply laid out their wares and then sat chatting over tea while visitors sort through a haphazard pile of chipped vases and

broken toys. Nowadays, traders must tout for business, the *Digest* says. Its advice is to greet, or at least smile at, all browsers who approach the stall.

The methods employed by people already well versed in boot sale tactics should be observed and pirated, the guide says. Newcomers should watch how the old hands operate and listen carefully to their patter. They should note what sells best and how much it fetches.

Bulk-buying items such as screws, nails and insulating tape and selling them in small packages is a useful way to maximise profits. Ornaments, books, magazines, toys and domestic goods are perennial favourites. So are tools and other goods for car enthusiasts

and DIY fanatics. Hagglers are an accepted, even necessary, part of ensuring a profit. The art of making customers feel they have come away with a bargain while ensuring a useful sales margin is one worth learning.

User-friendly stalls are vital. Even if the goods are displayed on rickety tables or boxes, these should at the least be brightened with clean and colourful coverings.

Pricing everything to the nearest 10p or 20p makes calculations more manageable. Traders are advised to take a sufficient supply of change to start the day.

The *Digest* costs £60 a year for 12 issues. It is available from 28 Charles Square, London, N1 6HT, or by telephoning 071-417 0700.

Lazard unveils high income trust

LAZARD Investors' first investment trust, available from Thursday, offers high income from a trust described by its promoters as "very conservative" (Sara McConnell writes).

The Lazard High Income Trust aims to produce a gross yield of 8 per cent by investing principally in convertible shares. Of the money raised, 75 per cent will be invested in listed convertibles.

These are issued by quoted companies wanting to raise money and are, effectively,

bonds paying a fixed rate of interest. However, holders of convertibles may exchange them for shares in the company issuing them when they mature. Convertibles have priority over ordinary shares when dividends are paid.

Nick Coombes, Lazard's investment manager, said the trust was investing in convertibles because inflation and interest rates looked set to stay low.

Lazards said it was, "extremely unlikely" that the

yield would be less than 8 per cent.

The trust hopes to raise between £15 million and £20 million. Of the total, 70 per cent will be raised by issuing ordinary shares in the trust to investors and the remainder through a bank loan.

The minimum investment is £1,000 and there is an annual charge of 0.8 per cent. Those buying through independent advisers will pay 2.5 per cent commission. The offer is open until August 3.

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Dale and Richards share record partnership



Dale double century

By IVO TENNANT
CARDIFF (second day of four): Middlesex, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 433 runs behind Glamorgan.

FOR a side that has yet to gain full batting points this season, Glamorgan did not fare too badly yesterday. Adrian Dale and Vivian Richards both made unbeaten double centuries, breaking numerous records by putting on 425 for the fourth wicket and hence giving Welsh statisticians a day out the like of which they have not had for years.

Goodness knows how many

more runs the pair would have piled up had a declaration not had to be made. It was as if Richards was still in his pomp, when such an innings was pre-ordained, and should Dale continue to bat with such ease as this, the selectors really will start crossing the Severn Bridge. The South African selectors, that is.

Over a career that has been more politicised than most, Richards has not had much to say for anyone born in the Republic. It is not his favourite place. Yet his encouragement to Dale here went quite beyond the remit of senior pro as between them they reduced the Middlesex attack to a state

of impotence. It was a job to keep up with all the landmarks. The stand of 425, which took 417 minutes, was the highest for any Glamorgan wicket, beating the 330 that Alan Jones and Roy Fredericks put on against Northamptonshire at Swansea in 1972. It was the third highest for the fourth wicket in England (or in English first-class cricket), to appease Welshmen and the seventh best in first-class cricket. In the course of Dale's career-best innings, 214 made from 455 balls, with 22 fours, he reached 1,000 runs for the season.

Richards is not quite there

yet, but he has already scored more first-class runs than he managed all last summer. The stock of superlatives has been long exhausted, but two shots he played yesterday will be in the mind's eye in mid-winter: a four swept fine off a Yorker Embury speared in at his leg stump and another four that was improvised and squirmed to third man after Tufnell had beaten him through the air. That was before he struck the same bowler out of the ground.

It may sound an odd, but Middlesex did not bowl at all badly, Gating might have tried himself or Carr instead of persisting with the medium-

pace of Feltham — by then it was worth trying pie-throwers of any variety — but his was a thankless task on a pitch which, strangely, gave Embury and Tufnell less help than it had the day before. Glamorgan had much the same difficulties when Haynes and Roseberry were going some way to making the 413 runs Middlesex needed to save the follow-on.

Richards, who had made 97 overnight, had taken his score to 224 from 357 balls, with four sixes and 28 fours, when he was called in by his captain shortly after 3pm. He has made his share of large scores, 322 for Somerset off Warwick-

shire in 1985 and an unbeaten 291 for West Indies against England in 1976, the most notable of them, but considering middle-age is upon him, this innings was worthy of his swansong.

That was by no means the end of the run-making for the day. Haynes and Roseberry began with a stand of 122 which, even if it did not vie with that between Richards and Dale, was made with ease. Haynes, who struck ten fours in his 73, was unlucky to be given out leg-before on the front foot, but then a wicket had to be taken somehow. How many more will fall in this match is a moot question.

Derbyshire raise ball tampering issue after Wasim spell

By GEOFFREY WHEELER

THE ball with which Wasim Akram, Lancashire's Pakistan fast bowler, routed Derbyshire in the county championship game that finished last Monday has been sent to the Test and County Cricketers Board (TCCB) at Lord's for examination.

Wasim took six for 11 in 49 deliveries after coming on for the 58th over. Derbyshire have made no formal complaint, but Alan Hill, their acting secretary, said: "We are concerned about the ball and the board are now swatting the umpires' reports." Wasim, the Pakistani captain, and Waqar Younis were at the centre of ball-tampering allegations in last season's Test series in England but no action was taken.

"I am absolutely astounded by this," David Hughes, the Lancashire manager, said. "The umpires were inspecting the ball after every over, as they are entitled to do, and they made no complaint at the time." Tony Brown, the TCCB administration secretary, said: "There has been no suggestion from the umpires of any malpractice."

The board sent pitch inspector Harry Brind to Northampton yesterday after the umpires had reported the pitch as "poor" after the fall of 17 wickets on the first day against Nottinghamshire.

The Northamptonshire batsmen did their best to put the pitch in a better light by rattling up 363 for eight at their second attempt, with half-centuries from Felton, Loye and Curran, who had earlier returned five for 32.

The Roses counties both had a bad day. Lancashire took 3½ hours to take the last two Leicestershire wickets, as Paul Nixon completed a century, before slipping to 148 for seven. Yorkshire, replying to Warwickshire's 346, were bowled out for 178 at Edgbaston, where Alan Donald showed an overdue return to form.

Elsewhere, batsmen were on the rampage. Graeme Hick hit 173 from 176 balls as Worcestershire piled up 539 for seven against Derbyshire: acting-captain Paul Richards, with 104 from 105 balls, led Essex's bold reply to Kent's 445 for nine, while Bill Athey has 99 not out of Sussex's 204 for two in answer to Somerset's 558.

Gallian builds for future

By JACK BAILEY

LORD'S (final day of three): Oxford University beat Cambridge University by nine wickets

AFTER this, the first Oxford win since 1984 and only the second since 1976, the time-honoured challenge to undergraduates to remove a brick from Keble College in the hope that it will eventually fall apart should come to an abrupt halt. Keble produced seven of this Oxford side, including Jason Gallian, their captain, who not only led his side with rare panache but had the sort of game all-rounders dream of. Keble should be left alone.

But Gallian will not be left alone for long. If Lancashire have any sense he will be playing for them in 1994, when he qualifies, joining John Crawley, his Cambridge counterpart, in the first XI without ado. Gallian has already performed prodigiously for their second XI. Yesterday, he took the first three Cambridge wickets and added an undefeated half-century from 40 balls to his first-innings hundred.

For Cambridge, Crawley's class was again revealed in the making of 49 runs. If he has a weakness it is a tendency to work the straight ball too freely to leg. The danger of this was underlined at Lord's when he became Gallian's second victim. Cambridge were still 92 runs shy if they were to avoid an innings defeat. When poor Cate bagged a "pair" two balls later, realistic hope faded and although the middle order chipped in with 20s and 30s, Jeh's speed and Trimby's leg breaks made a revival capable of giving Oxford any real quibbles unlikely.

The last Cambridge pair, Whitall and Pitcher, added 70 cheerful runs in 15 overs. But even that was too little too late and, left to make 97 for victory, Oxford accomplished their task within the hour.

Durham let bowlers dominate

By JOHN WOODCOCK

THE OVAL (second day of four): Surrey (24pts) beat Durham (4) by an innings and 205 runs

DURHAM found the Surrey bowling altogether too much for them at The Oval yesterday, being bowled out for 148 and 120 and losing soon after tea by an innings and 205 runs. The match was not much of an advertisement, I am afraid, for the restricted championship programme.

As pitches go, it was a pretty good one — faster and bouncier than most and responsive to bowlers only if they bent their backs. It was of the kind that sorts out the men from the boys. But the match was meant to go into four days, was over in two and, just as unsatisfactorily, there were only eight overs of spin. Surrey's last match but one, against Warwickshire at Edgbaston, also ended in two days and was a fast bowlers' benefit. In the two matches, Waqar Younis has taken 15 wickets for 147 runs and Martin Bicknell 15 for 137.

Only the weaker side will complain if the Test match here in August is played on a pitch similar to this one. If it is, no two England bowlers will be likely to be more of a handful than Waqar and Bicknell. Durham were dismissed in their first innings in 34.5 overs and in their second in 36.4 overs. Scott, their No 9 in the second, came in twice within an hour. Yet on Tuesday, against Durham's really rather motley attack, bowling shorter than was wise, Surrey had rattled along at more than four runs an over.

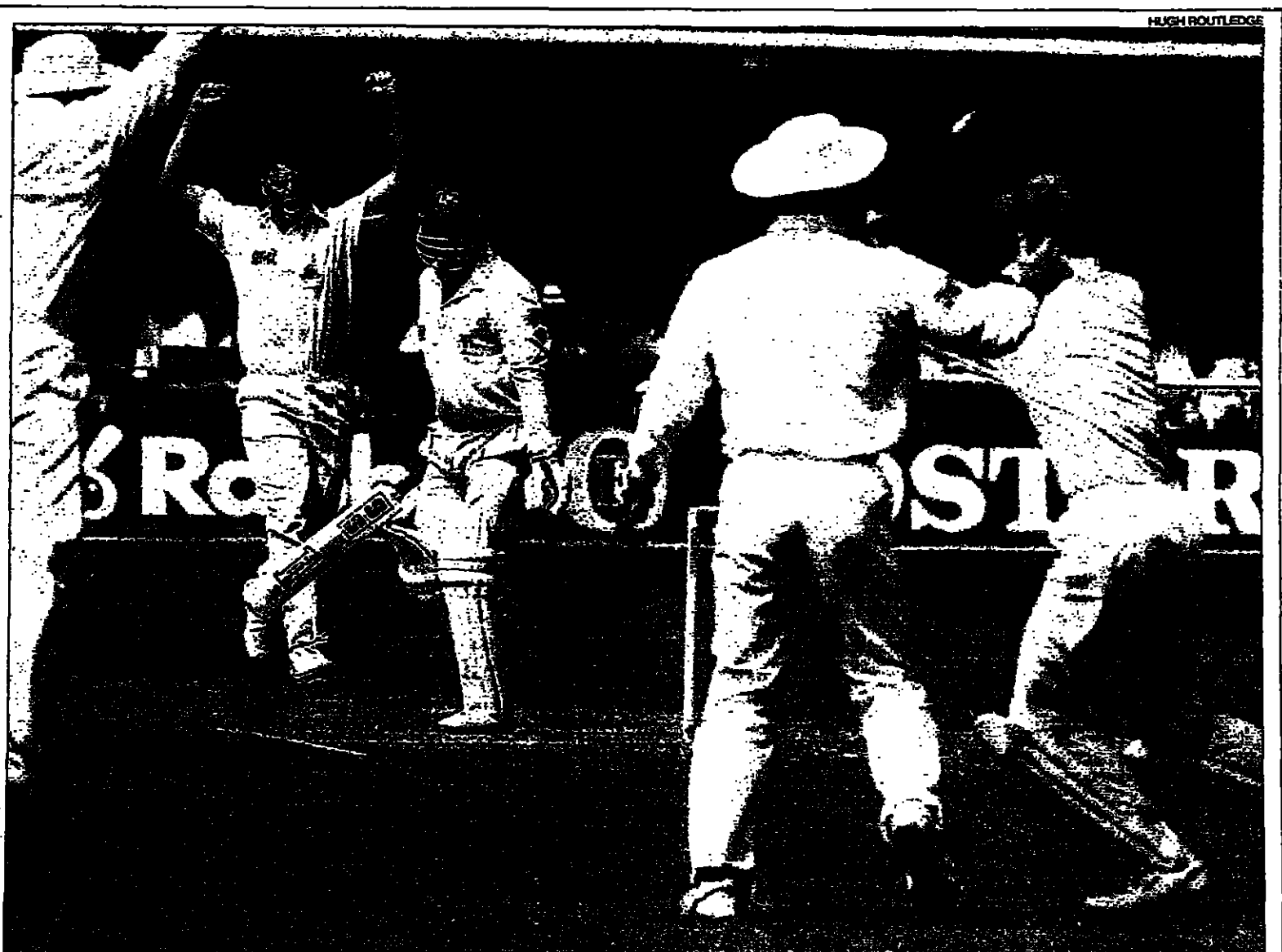
In the first 75 minutes yesterday, Durham lost two batsmen but only one wicket. Parker drove Bicknell to cover point and Glendenen retired with a chipped bone in his arm after making no attempt to play a rising ball — though

not a bouncer — from Waqar. The best strokes of the day, played by Fowler, Cummins, Bainbridge and Scott, fairly sped to the boundary, given extra speed by the pace of the pitch.

Durham still had two wickets down only half an hour before lunch, but then it became a procession. Botham was out twice in eight balls, miscuing a hook first time round and driving a catch to extra cover when he reappeared, the ball stopping on him. There was no question of his playing himself in, as he might at least have made some show of doing.

Much the longest partnership of the day in terms of both runs and overs was the last, between Scott and Hughes, who made 91 together. With Graveney away having an X-ray examination — he had been hit on the foot when falling leg-before to a Waqar Yorker in the first innings — and Glendenen's left arm in a sling, Durham's 29 for seven when Hughes came in was the equivalent of 29 for nine. Waqar had taken himself off to the dressing room by then, but if Durham's batsmen were not looking a little shame-faced by the time Hughes was trapped leg-before, they certainly should have been. So there will be no cricket at The Oval today and only one more first-class match there before the sixth Test begins in nearly seven weeks' time. However, Surrey's victory yesterday has lifted them to second place in the championship, and that, at least, will please the members.

Jon Ayling, 26, the Hampshire all-rounder, has been forced to retire because of a persistent knee injury. He damaged the knee in a collision with the Sussex opening batsman, David Smith, a pre-season match in 1989 and missed the whole of the following summer.



Ecstasy and agony: McCague celebrates his first Test wicket as Stewart catches a dejected Taylor at Trent Bridge yesterday

McCague playing under flag of convenience

Michael Henderson argues that England have ignored common sense in selecting the Kent fast bowler

THE old joke, attributed to Bob Hope and borrowed by just about everybody, has come to mind at Trent Bridge. During the Cold War, when the Americans and Russians disputed sovereignty over everything technological, the comedian noted the White House's triumphalism sarcastically. "Apparently our scientists are better than theirs," he mused. "What that really means is our German scientists are better than their German scientists." Perhaps there is a connection there about fast bowlers and Martin McCague, England's very own Australian.

Where nationhood is concerned, battle lines can be hard to draw. After all, Hope was born in Eitham, as we

are reminded every time he returns (home), but to call him English on account of this accident of birth is like claiming the Liberty Bell for ourselves because it was forged in Whitechapel. Nevertheless, we can be sure of one thing. For the first time in Test history, England took the field yesterday with two fast bowlers, McCague and Caddick, who are English only in the most marginal sense. Every day a little death: the notion of Englishness, if we really care about it, has died a little here.

Of all the heat generated by McCague's conversion from Australian to stout man of Kent, the views of the three men closest to his selection bear consideration. First, Ted Dexter: "We must be proud of our multi-national background." Next Keith Fletcher: "We acted within the rules." Finally McCague: "I owe Australia nothing." Why English cricket lovers should take pride in being represented by a bowler unable to win a place in his own country's side is unclear. As for

rules, the unwritten one is common-sense, which has not been applied in this case. A student who felt he owed his lecturers nothing would be considered a most ungrateful chap.

McCague has argued that England has absorbed too many foreigners for his selection to be newsworthy. He is missing the point by a mile. By using the Union Jack as a flag of convenience, McCague is helping to diminish the sense of community which binds a team. In any meaningful estimation, he is Australian. He knows it. The Australians know it. Country cricketers know it. Most important, the spectators know it. All the wickets and catches in the world cannot alter that central fact.

Britannic Assurance county championship

Warwick v Yorks

EDGBASTON (second day of four): Yorkshire, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, need 195 runs to avoid an innings defeat by Warwickshire.

WARWICKSHIRE First Innings
A J Miles c Batty b Hartley 113
D J Gurney c Batty b Gough 28
D P Carter c Batty b Hartley 25
T J Pinner c and b Stamp 11
D A Rhodes c Batty b Hartley 10
P A Smith c Batty b Hartley 8
R G Thomas c Batty b Hartley 7
F A Marshall c Batty b Hartley 6
R C L. Holloway not out 12
M K Smith c and b Stamp 17
D A Donald not out 14
Extras (4 b, 11 w, 3 no 10) 25
Total (88 overs) 148

YORKSHIRE First Innings
M D Micon c Gurney b Hartley 15
A Metcalfe c Batty b Hartley 47
R B Richardson c P A Smith b Donald 18
D Eves c Holloway b Hartley 10
R J Bailey c Batty b Hartley 10
C H White c Batty b Hartley 22
P J Jarvis c Batty b Hartley 14
P J Harris c Batty b Hartley 9
R D Smeeth not out 30
J D Batty not out 21
Extras (5 b, 10 w, 1 no 10) 21
Total (88 overs) 178

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-34, 2-38, 3-39, 4-40, 5-48, 6-50, 7-52, 8-53, 9-54, 10-55, 11-56, 12-57, 13-58, 14-59, 15-60, 16-61, 17-62, 18-63, 19-64, 20-65, 21-66, 22-67, 23-68, 24-69, 25-70, 26-71, 27-72, 28-73, 29-74, 30-75, 31-76, 32-77, 33-78, 34-79, 35-80, 36-81, 37-82, 38-83, 39-84, 40-85, 41-86, 42-87, 43-88, 44-89, 45-90, 46-91, 47-92, 48-93, 49-94, 50-95, 51-96, 52-97, 53-98, 54-99, 55-100, 56-101, 57-102, 58-103, 59-104, 60-105, 61-106, 62-107, 63-108, 64-109, 65-110, 66-111, 67-112, 68-113, 69-114, 70-115, 71-116, 72-117, 73-118, 74-119, 75-120, 76-121, 77-122, 78-123, 79-124, 80-125, 81-126, 82-127, 83-128, 84-129, 85-130, 86-131, 87-132, 88-133, 89-134, 90-135, 91-136, 92-137, 93-138, 94-139, 95-140, 96-141, 97-142, 98-143, 99-144, 100-145, 101-146, 102-147, 103-148, 104-149, 105-150, 106-151, 107-152, 108-153, 109-154, 110-155, 111-156, 112-157, 113-158, 114-159, 115-160, 116-161, 117-162, 118-163, 119-164, 120-165, 121-166, 122-167, 123-168, 124-169, 125-170, 126-171, 127-172, 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683-728, 684-729, 685-730, 686-731, 687-732, 688-733, 689-734, 690-735, 691-736, 692-737, 693-738, 694-739, 695-740, 696-741, 697-742, 698-743, 699-744, 700-745, 701-746, 702-747, 703-748, 704-749, 705-750, 706-751, 707-752, 708-753, 709-754, 710-755, 711-756, 712-757, 713-758, 714-759, 715-760, 716-761, 717-762, 718-763, 719-764, 720-765, 721-766, 722-767, 723-768, 724-769, 725-770, 726-771, 727-772, 728-773, 729-774, 730-775, 731-776, 732-777, 733-778, 734-779, 735-780, 736-781, 737-782, 738-7

Saturday portrait: Monica Seles, by Andrew Longmore

Absent friend whose dynamic displays thrust her to the top

In sport, more than in life, out of sight is out of mind. In years to come, nobody will remember that the centenary women's champion at Wimbledon won the title in the absence of the best player in the world. Sports insatiable appetite must be fed champions. This afternoon, as Steffi Graf and Jana Novotna step on to centre court, Monica Seles will be relegated to the role of a statistic in the television ratings game. If she bothers to watch at all, that is. Few would blame her if she switched off the button for good after the events at a tournament in Hamburg on April 30, when she was stabbed while a match was taking place.

At the age of 19, Seles has done most things in the game. She has won eight grand slam titles and earned just over \$7 million in prize-money, enough to keep her family in the regal manner to which they have become accustomed, more than enough to justify the decision to swap their home at Novi Sad, in eastern Yugoslavia, for a new base in Florida seven years ago.

But Seles has not just been the dominant player in the women's game for the past two years, she has been its most celebrated personality, forever dangling new images in front of the television cameras, changing colours like the seasons, embracing new styles with the ease and sophistication of a super-model on the catwalk. One moment she was Madonna, the next Suzanne Lenglen or Little Miss Muffet: one moment she was dressed in slinky black, the next in flowery pink and wearing a straw hat. Her many utterances, delivered at machine-gun speed, were received with all the reverence of the Oracle at Delphi. Seles has always been part tennis player, part media superstar, and, without her, Wimbledon 1993, centenary year or not, has been a novel with plenty of sub-themes but no main plot. Quieter on court and off.

Two years ago, she effortlessly dominated the back pages by not playing; last year, by making too much noise about playing. She was warned for her grunt, but

adapted her baseline style well enough to reach her first Wimbledon final. This year, Seles has been remembered primarily by the erratic formation of the players' court-side chairs — some facing the court, in traditional pose, others with backs to the umpire — and the presence of a burly security guard in the front row of the stalls. Seles's spectre has hovered over every match.

"We definitely miss her," Pam Shriver said. "We missed her in Paris for the French Open and I've sensed that we miss her more here at Wimbledon. She has style and she is a bit of an enigma. People want to talk about her and write about her. But everyone on the tour just wants her to get better and get back soon."

With due respect to Novotna,

'She competes for every point with terrifying intensity, dominating her opponent physically and mentally from the moment they step on to the court'

who has at last fulfilled her enormous potential at Wimbledon, the final most people wanted disappeared three months ago with the flash of a lunatic's blade. Novotna versus Graf could be a great tennis match, better than many have predicted. Seles against Graf would have been pure theatre, a great rivalry played out on the most dramatic sporting stage in the world and for the one prize that has eluded, might always elude, the two-handed phenomenon. There are not enough characters to fill the void left by Seles's enforced departure.

As ever, with Seles, truth has merged with fiction to produce a series of conflicting reports about her recovery from the stab wound that pierced muscle and mind with equal deadliness. According to her agent, Stephanie Tolleson, Seles is still undergoing "rehabilitation" in Colorado and is planning to return

to the practice court in the next two weeks in preparation for a potential comeback at Stratton Mountain in the last week of July.

"She is just taking it day by day. Some days she feels good and positive, others a little down," Tolleson added. Other sources suggest that Seles will certainly not play before her twentieth birthday, on December 2, and might never compete again. Seles's doctor is not willing to set a date for her return.

Though a series of psychiatrists have detailed the problems Seles will face before she will be ready to return to the court again, the extent of the mental damage can only be a matter of guesswork. Apart from her lethal ground strokes, hit with relentless power off both sides, Seles's great strength is her strength of mind. She competes for every point with terrifying intensity, dominating her opponent physically and mentally from the moment they step on to court. As Mary Joe Fernandez said once: "You know Monica means business from the way she hits the ball in the knock-out. She never lets up."

In the immediate aftermath of the injury, Seles showed equal tenacity and talked defiantly of getting on with her life and her tennis as soon as possible. "I'm a strong person and the main reason I play tennis is because I love the game. I just have to put this out of my mind," Easier said than done, of course. Since early May, there has been silence and a growing feeling on the Kraft women's tour that all is not well in the Seles camp.

"If it was a knee injury, you would know how long it would take to get back. The problem is that nothing like this has ever happened before so you've got nothing to go on," Shriver added. Which allows the rumour-factory, in the press and the locker-room, full rein. Some players feel she is tough enough to make a full recovery, others that the attack must leave its mark on her mind. The extremists believe she is as good as finished. Whatever the reality, Seles has some ground to make up.



ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE MARTIN

It has largely been forgotten that even before that fateful day in Hamburg, Seles was returning from a prolonged absence through illness. Though she defended her Australian Open title in January, beating Graf in the final, she had not played competitively since being beaten by Martina Navratilova in Paris at the end of February. For a player who thrives on competition and hard work, every day away from the court makes it a day more difficult to

return. Or perhaps, after her lost teenage years, Seles might even find a taste for the good life, for a little hard-earned indulgence. She does not need to work again and has consistently predicted that she would be out of the game by the age of 25, probably exchanging the confines of the university classroom and the shopping malls. The recent traumas can only have speeded up a video already on fast forward.

On the tour, Seles has indeed been sorely missed, not least by Graf, whose competitive instinct has been thwarted by the absence of her greatest rival. Graf's return to No. 1, a position she lost to the Yugoslav in March 1991, was an embarrassment, an accolade she would rather win in fair competition, not by default. "It means nothing to me," she said. You wondered too how much her first French Open title for five years meant to her or whether her fifth

Wimbledon title, on the line today, will feel quite as sweet. At present, Graf is like Navratilova without Evert, a lone figure deprived of a reason for prolonging the agony. Navratilova, survived, but these are more dangerous times. Were Seles to leave the field early, Graf would surely not be far behind and tennis would have lost two champions in one blow. Today, Graf has a centenary Championship to win, but the world champion has the more difficult road ahead.

Becker's well of inspiration runs dry

REMEMBER that golden youth who won Wimbledon in 1985? A mere boy, whose tennis was full of joy. Diving all over the place, playing keepy-uppy with the ball before crucial points, as if it was all the biggest lark in the world.

He was always punching the air and leaping about. Every line of his body expressed his delight in the world and what was in it. His name was Boris Becker.

By an odd coincidence, that was the name of the player who lost to Pete Sampras yesterday, a tormented, angst-riddled soul whose every second on court was a savage and brutal torment. I wonder if, by chance, the two Boris Beckers are related.

Becker won Wimbledon that first time as if he were not so much a player as a kind of natural force, sent to blow away the established order of things. He did so without asking questions, without

knowing the meaning of self-doubt or of worry. He seemed not to think at all, to play in a trance of delight.

Doubt and worry have since become his constant companions and they were with him all the way yesterday. By the second set, the agonies were all around him as he paced the baseline, muttering to himself and playing little air-shots, gloomy and self-despising.

Sampras always looks gloomy. Be that as it may, he played the most sublime tennis yesterday, Becker was hardly guilty of throwing the game away. But when he sought that blinding inspiration and the glorious certainty of earlier years, he found nothing.

Becker never forgave himself for losing the first set tie-break but the fact is that Sampras really played him off the court in those last two sets. Sampras played tennis as fine as he will ever play in his life and all without once removing



SIMON BARNES
at Wimbledon

his chin from his chest. Sampras cannot play gloriously without looking miserable at the same time; that is his nature. Becker cannot suffer agonies of misery without it being quite wonderfully dramatic that is his nature. Becker's joy and his roaring triumphs have lit up the centre court. His agonies of self-reproach are just as compelling.

Becker reminds me of a poet whose muse has departed, a person who, in finding maturity, has lost his inspiration. How many poets write the best of their stuff in youth? And when they reach even the comparative maturity of their mid-twenties, they go to the

well as usual and the well is dry.

Becker was clearly fighting for the inspiration that puts him into a different dimension: a tennis player of colossal substance, no mere versifier. For a couple of minutes, he fought a desperate rear-guard action in the final game, seeking inspiration. He grasped fiercely and, like water, it had gone.

Becker, so distraught on court, had regained his composure half-an-hour later, when he paid fulsome tribute to Sampras. What upset you most out there, Boris? "Pete's playing. The way he served under pressure."

He was, he said, "a step

slow", and it showed. The difference between very good and excellent: the difference between victory and defeat at the highest level of the game is all a matter of inches. He lost the tie-break because he lost a single point on his service. On that point, the match swung.

Becker said that Sampras will find the final a different experience from a semi, a very considerable step up. Sampras has made himself the world No. 1 but he has not won a grand slam event since his own period as a wonderkid, when he won the US Open in 1990 at 19.

Becker followed his first Wimbledon victory with another the next year, an even more remarkable achievement. Sampras followed his US Open win with a year of decline and spoke of his great relief when he surrendered his title the following year. He knows what it is to suffer on a tennis court.

"If he keeps his cool, he can win it," Becker said. "If he plays like that, if he serves like that, and keeps his cool, he can win it."

Keeping his cool is the last thing Becker has ever tried to do. He is the antithesis of cool: his best playing and his slumps of self-loathing are both matters of white-hot passion.

Tennis so often seems an ordeal for him, a constant frustration that the effortless, joyful inspiration of his youthful days can no longer be found. "I am not far away from my best," he said. The difference between Becker now and Becker at his best is also a matter of inches. That is also the difference between defeat and victory.

And then one of the tabloid newshounds clipped in: "Boris, you have several overdue videos from a local video store. Can you say when they will be returned? There are compensations in leaving Wimbledon.

Miss Hingis puts her foot down

MARTINA Hingis may only be 12 but she is learning fast. In her match against the wonderfully named Nino Loutsabitsky, she found the court crowded with photographers, eight of them in all, from national and international publications.

As they came and strained to get their snaps, Hingis marched up to the umpire's chair and demanded that Fleet Street's finest, complete with their zoom lenses, be removed as they were causing a distraction. Within minutes, the battle-hardened snappers were booted off court, beaten into submission by a girl who can still claim half-fare on the bus.

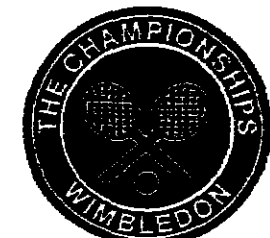
But age caught up with her yesterday when the task of giving five years to Rita Grande, of Italy, was beyond her. She lost her semi-final match 6-2, 7-6.

Star quality

The warm weather may have brought the crowds out in vast numbers but the sunshine has its downside as the championships are fast running out of matches. And once Agassi headed out of the All England club with Barbara Streisand on his arm, the tournament had been deprived of its sole surviving character. Enter one J.P. McEnroe, who yesterday was spotted on the Aorangi Park practice courts and drew a crowd of 150, more than any of the outside courts could muster.

No entrance

Tickets for Wimbledon are like gold dust and the event is one of the few where celebrities and VIPs get little joy. Frank Sinatra once announced to the club officials that he and his bodyguards were on their way. "Not without tickets you're not," the great man was told. Yesterday, Zack Starkey tried the same approach to gain a ticket for himself and his father, Ringo Starr, only to be pointed in the general direction of the queue. However, tickets do not necessarily guarantee a day's tennis.



Woodforde in the mixed doubles, he had been ripping through the opposition with the power of his serving. Until, that is, Navratilova latched on to one service and blasted it back past Jensen at express speed. Jensen immediately dropped his racket and fell to his knees in praise.

Rocket man

Tennis players, like policemen, seem to get younger every year. But youth is not always the key to success. The fastest service recorded so far on centre court comes from Michael Stich, who pounded one down at 128mph. But that is nothing compared to Roscoe Tanner, the 1979 Wimbledon finalist at present to be seen in the over-35s invitation doubles, who regularly notches up speeds in excess of 130mph, despite reaching the advanced age of 41.

ALIX RAMSAY

Novotna poses genuine threat to Graf

By STUART JONES
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

IN SPITE of being deprived of the nostalgia that would have been brought to the hundredth final by Martina Navratilova, the women's singles could still reach a suitably historic conclusion today. Jana Novotna, if she wins, would be the first outsider to do so in modern times.

No player outside the top four seeds has claimed the title since 1962, when Karen Susman beat Vera Sukova, whose daughter, Helena, was knocked out in the quarter-finals this week. According to the Wimbledon seeding committee, that was also supposed to be the stage at which Novotna should have left.

Instead, the eighth seed defied expectations by first playing well enough to eliminate the fourth, Gabriela Sabatini, and then by playing almost perfectly to dispose of the second, Navratilova. If she maintains that rate of progress, there is no logical reason why she should not overcome the top seed, Steffi Graf, this afternoon.

The finalists are both 5ft 9in

tall, 24 years old and, considering their recent meetings, evenly matched in more than height and age. Graf, though she has won all but three of their 19 duels, has been taken to the limit in the last four.

As long as Novotna retains the belief she exhibited so vividly in the semi-final on Thursday, she could beat Graf on grass for the first time. Ask Navratilova: "If she [Novotna] plays like that, she can win the final," she said. "It was the best match I've ever seen her play."

Yet one difference between

the finalists is so vast that it promises to be decisive. Graf has appeared on the centre court during the second Saturday six times in the last seven years. For her, the potentially daunting experience comes within the usual run of events.

Novotna has never been through it. She has reached the final of a grand slam tournament, the Australian Open, but that was two years ago and Wimbledon has its own unique aura.

Ask Graf. "I wasn't nervous," she said of playing in

her first final in 1987. "I was just excited to be there." Unable to control the emotion, she was "too loose" and was beaten in straight sets by Navratilova.

Although she still tends to be initially tentative, as against Conchita Martinez in her semi-final, she has since learned to impose her authority, which, in the absence of Monica Seles, has seen her reinstated as the world No. 1. She has lost only four of her 46 matches this year — to Seles, Navratilova and twice to Arantxa Sanchez Vicario —

and her present unbeaten sequence stands at 19. She knows what she must do to extend it to 20.

"I have to have a solid serve and work on my returns," she said. Similar qualities will be required of Novotna, especially if there is no natural conclusion to a set. She has yet to win a tie-break against Graf. The statistic confirms that the champion has always been superior at critical points. Today, should be no different.

Leading article, page 16

HEAD-TO-HEADS

Year	Tournament	Surface	Winner	Score
1987	French Open	clay	Graf	6-0, 6-1
1987	Wimbledon	grass	Graf	6-4, 6-3
1988	Lipton	hard	Graf	6-2, 6-2
1988	European Indoor	carpet	Graf	6-1, 7-6
1989	Brighton	carpet	Graf	4-6, 6-3, 6-3
1989	US Championships	clay	Graf	6-3, 6-4
1990	French Open	clay	Graf	6-1, 6-2
1990	Wimbledon	grass	Graf	7-6, 6-2
1990	US Open	hard	Graf	6-3, 6-1
1991	Australian Open	clay	Novotna	6-7, 6-4, 6-6
1991	Luthansa Cup	clay	Graf	6-1, 6-0
1991	Leipzig	clay	Graf	6-3, 6-3
1991	US Championships	carpet	Novotna	6-3, 3-6, 6-1
1992	US Open	carpet	Novotna	6-3, 6-3, 7-6
1992	French Open	clay	Graf	6-1, 6-4
1992	Leipzig	carpet	Graf	6-3, 1-6, 6-4
1992	European Indoor	carpet	Graf	6-2, 4-6, 7-6
1992	Brighton	carpet	Graf	6-6, 6-4, 7-6
1993	Citizen Cup	clay	Graf	6-3, 3-6, 6-1



Olazábal finds green shoots of recovery

Woodbridge pursues record

almost hit the flag. "I try and block out the pain when I am over the ball," Langer said. "When I swing, I feel the muscle ride up over the shoulder blade and that hurts. Thank goodness I only get the pain on the backswing and the swing only lasts one second or so."

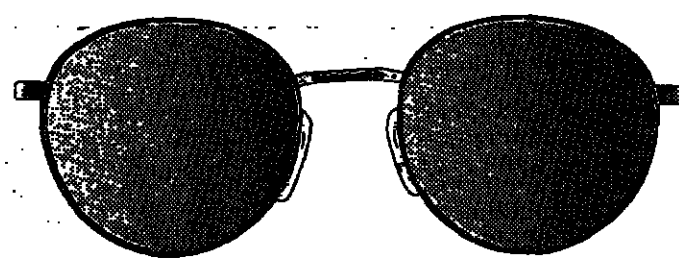
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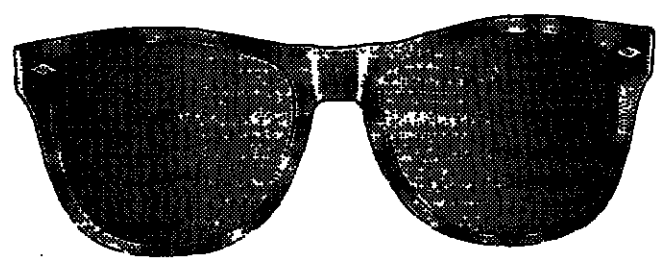
There was even a hint of a smile on his face when he said that and, after the humdrum run he has had lately, it was an improvement. He is five under par, only three behind, and in with a real chance for the first time for some weeks.

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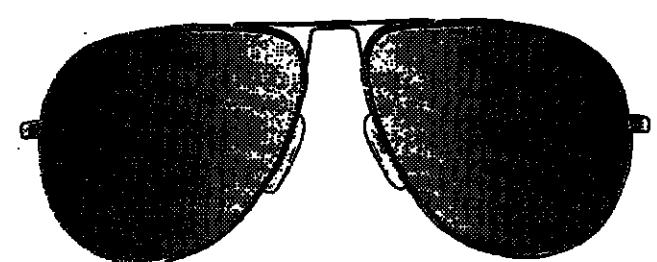
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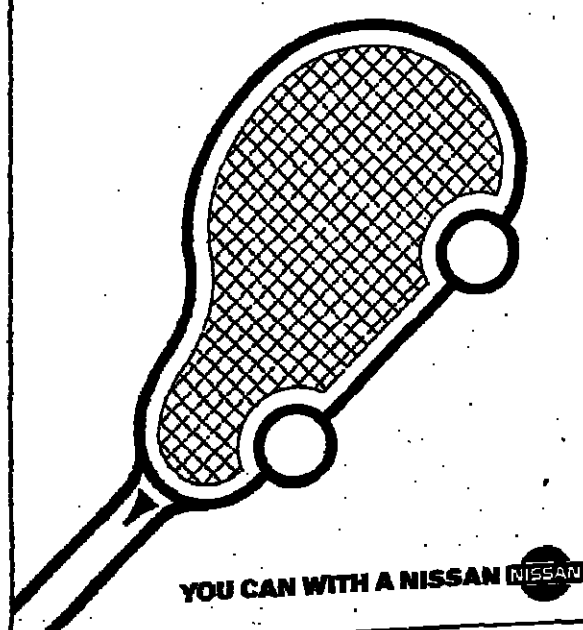
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YOU CAN WITH A NISSAN

SATURDAY JULY 3 1993

Becker and Edberg denied chance to renew old rivalry in men's final by younger Americans



Stretching a point: Sampras, the world No 1, reaches for a backhand during his imperious straight-sets victory over Becker, of Germany, in their enthralling semi-final at Wimbledon yesterday. Photograph: Ian Stewart

Sampras leads Wimbledon into new era

By STUART JONES
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

THE old guard has given way to the new order at Wimbledon. Boris Becker and Stefan Edberg, experienced and established figures who have between them won the men's singles title five times, were yesterday beaten with unexpected ease in their respective semi-finals by a couple of comparative novices on grass.

On another sunlit and sultry afternoon, during which the world's top four players were all on view in the Centre Court — for the first time for 66 years — Becker lost 7-6, 6-4, 6-4 to Pete Sampras and Edberg went down 4-6, 6-4, 6-2 to Jim Courier. The two Americans will this meet in their first final to decide the destiny of the game's most



prestigious championship and a prize valued at £305,000.

Although Sampras is surely destined to win it one day, probably tomorrow, Courier's progress has been one of the most surprising features of the tournament, following a trail blazed by Andre Agassi a year ago. The charismatic Las Vegas proved, like Bjorn Borg, that those who excel from the baseline on clay can overcome the finest of grass court exponents.

Becker was the heavyweight

among the last four. Apart from weighing at least half a stone more than the others, he had been installed by the bookmakers as the favourite after an impressive victory over his German compatriot, Michael Stich, in the quarter-finals. That, though, he believes was his undoing.

"Every round I had a strong opponent, but the match with Stich was too tough," he said. "We finished at 8.30pm in the evening and I could not get to sleep until two or three o'clock in the morning."

Shortly after noon, Becker came out for a brief preview of the Centre Court, which was once likened to his own front garden. When he returned to play on it, less than an hour later, he discovered his favourite lawn had been taken over by an intruder.

A fortnight ago, Sampras

expressed doubts about whether or not he would be able to compete. All of the uncertainties, concerning his ability on a comparatively foreign surface as much as a damaged shoulder, have since receded and yesterday he disappeared during a performance that bordered on perfection.

Becker encapsulated the relative misery he had to endure for 2½ hours. "He didn't play a loose shot. He played tough from the first to the last and he didn't give me any free points."

That is not strictly true — Sampras was credited with half a dozen double faults — but he was otherwise ruthless. He yielded a mere seven points in a first set he dominated memorably towards a tie-break until Becker committed the error that was to become the

main theme of his contribution. He missed five successive serves to present Sampras with a set-point.

He saved it, but in failing to control a backhand, conceded the one point to be won against serve in the tie-break. His volley was perhaps only an inch too long, but the difference between success and failure was later to be wholly of his own making. He doubled-faulted three times in one game to fall behind in the second set and twice more in the first game of the third.

"My legs were not working," he explained. Altogether, he had five points to recover from the self-inflicted damage and missed them all. Becker resembled a boxer during the changeovers. He sat with a towel draped over his head, doubtless contemplating why he was delivering

so many blows to his own solar plexus.

He appreciated that any weak second serve would be instantly punished. So did Sampras, but he managed to keep control of both length and strength. "Sometimes I thought he didn't know the difference between the first and second serve because he was really hitting them hard," Becker mused.

Courier was able to

empathise. For a set and a half, he was in danger of being overwhelmed. Edberg was so wholly in command of the second semi-final that he seemed certain to finish it in straight sets and in even quicker time.

Once his first serve deserted him, though, the second was systematically dismantled. Courier, hitting with breathtaking power, blasted huge holes in the Swede's game and

climbed through them to enter a final supposed to be well beyond his reach.

Sampras, who insists that the dry conditions will suit his opponent, expects tomorrow afternoon will form a reprise of his quarter-final against another American on Wednesday. "It will be like playing Andre," he said. "He will stay back and I will be coming in as much as I can."

Becker favours Sampras, but not without a few reservations. "If he keeps his head the way he has been and if he serves the way he did, he has a very good chance." He added an omen: everyone who has beaten him at Wimbledon over the last five years has gone on to win the title.

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Becker's blues, page 38
David Miller, page 39

Pete Sampras (US) leads Jim Courier (US), 7-2

Year	Tournament	Surface	Winner	Score
1988	Scottsdale	Hard	Sampras	6-3, 6-1
1991	Chicasso	Hard	Sampras	6-2, 7-5
1991	Indianapolis	Hard	Sampras	6-3, 7-6
1991	US Open	Hard	Courier	6-2, 7-6, 7-6
1991	ATP Finals	Carpet	Sampras	6-4, 7-6, 6-3, 6-4
1992	Indianapolis	Hard	Sampras	6-4, 6-4
1992	US Open	Hard	Sampras	6-1, 6-2, 6-2
1992	ATP Finals	Carpet	Courier	7-6, 7-5
1993	Hong Kong	Hard	Sampras	6-3, 6-7, 7-6

Fiery McCague fuels England hopes

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

TRENT BRIDGE (second day of five): Australia, with five first-innings wickets in hand, are 59 runs behind England

KEITH Fletcher, the England manager, has been saying for some months that his team cannot hope to start winning Test matches again until they score commanding totals and he must have felt in his heart that conquering the minor summit of 300 runs yesterday morning was no more than a fool's paradise. By close of play, however, he and everyone else watching the third Test at Trent Bridge were beginning to wonder.

England's 321 was at least 100 below par, batting first on a pitch where the ball comes on invitingly, giving the bowlers scant margin for error. As the shadows lengthened on a glorious day, the Australian reply was galloping along at five runs an over and if Mark Waugh had not forfeited a century with a rush of blood he was regretting even as it occurred, they would by now be close to parity, an awesome total in their sights.

As it is, the later removal of Steve Waugh, whose future in this series is now in jeopardy, and Ian Healy, gave England a rare glimpse of equality.

It may prove illusory. David Boon, who is not given to acts of mercy with a bat in his hand, remains unbeaten on 88, his sixth century of the tour imminent, and Allan Border, the captain, shielded by two nightwatchmen as he suffered an attack of hay fever, is still to come. Realistically, the best England can expect is to restrict their first-innings deficit to manageable proportions.

However, England must hope that this team of raw, young innocents will not be initiated promptly in the cere-

monies that have gained them their opportunity. But if this was a day for fearing the familiar worst, it was not a day for derision. England made more runs than had once seemed likely and they bowled and fielded with a competitive vigour absent from earlier teams in this series.

Martin McCague may not satisfy everyone's requirements of being English, but he bowled like a driven man, as well he might be. Genuinely quick with the new ball, he came back at reduced pace yet still did the job presented to him by Graham Gooch, summing the fire to expose Steve Waugh's frailty against the rising ball. It will not gain universal approval, but on this evidence McCague can

start thinking about a winter in the Caribbean.

Mark Ilett and Andy Caddick strayed too frequently, Caddick conceding six runs an over, yet both might have finished with more than a single wicket. Peter Such, the final member of a four-man attack that at one stage looked in urgent need of reinforcements, seldom erred in length and took the day's most important wicket when checking the runaway progress of Mark Waugh.

Last weekend, Waugh went to Ilford to catch up on his old friends in the Essex dressing-room. He apparently promised Nasser Hussain a warm welcome when hearing of his return to the England side but Hussain, in his combative way, has done as much as

anyone to keep England in this game and, consequently, in the Ashes series.

Hussain batted more than four hours, double the crease occupation of anyone else, and his selection, ahead of more world talents such as Gower and Maynard, has been fully vindicated. He was ninth out yesterday, caught off pad and glove at short-leg to give Shane Warne his fifteenth wicket in his fourteenth Test match.

Once again, however, the important decisions had been made by the indefatigable Merv Hughes. By stripping away Caddick and McCague, both of whom can bat, early in the day he ensured that Hussain was virtually alone on the sinking ship. Hughes was completing his first five-

wicket return against England and his 17 wickets thus far in the series are all the more striking for the fact that he has had no significant seam bowling support.

Australia were left 20 minutes' batting before lunch and the openers were grateful to get through it. McCague's first ball was a full toss missing leg stump, but it was also conspicuously quick, tumbling neatly into Slater's pads like an unwelcome parcel hitting the doorman. There was to be no trifling with this man, perceived traitor by the Australians or not.

Ilett, too, left an early mark on Slater's consciousness as a flashy cut against a rising ball flew off the top edge, flicking the fingertips of Graham Thorpe at first slip. As the afternoon session began, the Australians looked to be resuming normal service until McCague, shunting the ball across the left-handed Taylor, found the edge of a confident stroke.

There cannot be many batsmen in the world in such mid-season form as Boon but even he was unusually jumpy against McCague. England were looking intent, a 60-yard sprint and dive by Lathwell to turn a four into three epitomising their outfielding. When Slater, forced back by Caddick, was hit on the roll of the pad and adjudged leg before, the big sunbathing crowd hummed with pleasure and anticipation. The game could not have been better balanced.

For the next 90 minutes, it did not look that way. Boon and Mark Waugh were the men most likely to burst the England bubble and they did so with poise, precision and ominous ambition. It was their third consecutive century

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Photograph, page 37
Welsh records, page 37

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An all-American celebration

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WEEKEND

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THE TIMES SATURDAY JULY 3 1993

Cavalier games in laid-back places

Behind a languid exterior, coffee-house chess is a cut-and-thrust intellectual battle, says Roger Boyes



THE TIMES WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

Jean-Paul Sartre was not a strong chess player but he was, of course, a great café lizard, and so one has to take him seriously on the question of intellectual stimulation. "Apart from philosophy," he declaimed, "I know no finer fuel for the brain than chess and coffee."

You do not have to be a Left Bank existentialist to understand the curious magic of café chess, of sitting for hours drinking coffee or wine, dramatically reaching forward to stab out cigarettes and, while seeming not to care, playing hard to win.

The café game has many variants. You can play for money, for attention, to escape from the family, to humiliate your friend (a much underestimated pleasure), or to kill time. Above all you can treat it as a sensual experience. Unlike the mortal combat of tournament chess, it is the continuation of conversation by other means.

Not surprisingly, the tough top boards of the tournament circuit are dismissive of café chess. One of the greatest and rudest chess players of all time, Alexander Alekhine, used the phrase "coffee-house prodigy" as a stock insult. Yet he was himself a café player. A former tsarist officer, he was arrested after the Bolshevik revolution playing chess in an Odessa coffee house. Trotsky, the best chess player among the Russian revolutionaries, saved him. In Paris and New York cafés, Alekhine would play chess for money deep into the night. He was a drunk, but somehow this did not affect his combinational genius on the board, only his manners. During a tournament in Slovenia in 1931, he saw the wife of a rival sitting at a pavement café and promptly threw his cigarette in her cake.

In fact the gulf between club and café chess is not so vast: the quality of play in cafés is usually lower, the distractions greater, but they are part of the same obsessional spectrum. Alfred Kubin's novel *Die andere Seite* — "The Other Side" — depicts two chess players at a café table sunk in concentration, while on the other side of the window the



Naked aggression: chess-crazy bathers of all ages battle it out chest-deep in the thermal baths in Budapest, Hungary. Between games, players can have a quick swim or nip into the sauna

world crumbles. At the end of the book there are apocalyptic scenes outside the café, while inside there are two skeletons overrun by ants. On the board between them is a beautiful checkmate.

Even the money motive is common to tournament and café. The first "professional" player was probably the Spanish priest Ruy Lopez, inventor of the Spanish Opening, who played for gold in the 16th century. Not so very different perhaps from the Sunday chess at the Data, the Madrid bar run by Jesus de la Cruz, a 28-year-old chessmaster, and his partner Gonzalo Lobos. The players throw 300 pesetas (£1.60) into a kitty and embark on a series of five-minute games. "The players are very serious," says Señor Lobos, "mostly middle-aged, but they enjoy a *copa* and a smoke."

Plainly there is a difference between the chess hustlers in New York dives and, say, Jan Timman, the Dutch grandmaster, who once travelled to a tournament in the far

north in a cold mini-van and found he could not afford a warm hotel bed unless he won first prize. The most highly motivated player in the tournament, he won the money.

The distinction then is between those who play for money to fund their chess obsession, and those who use chess to make money. In the coffee houses of the 19th century, the latter were in the ascendant: rarely is a café match beautiful or memorable. Yet the best chess bars or cafés radiate a seriousness that transcends petty gambling and pays genuine tribute to the game. On the old trading route between Halle and Dessau in eastern Germany, there is an unremarkable village called Loebnitz. At its heart lies a pub called The Grape, a focus for passionate chess players since the 1870s. At first it was simply a matter of getting out the board after the local choral society had belted out the *Lieder*. But, helped by a local industrialist, it began to attract top talent, including the former world

champion, Emanuel Lasker. Still a pub, it has become something more: a pit-stop for champions.

Lasker is the model for most café players. Apart from being world champion from 1894 to 1921 — a record length of time — he was a philosopher, mathematician, playwright, poet and a brilliant card player. At his peak, he gave up tournament chess for two years to concentrate on mathematics. But he was all too human, a chain-smoker of cheap cigarettes, he would blow the fumes on to his rivals. Lasker is a hero to café chess players because he captured some of the romance of the game.

Novellists such as Elias Canetti (who uncannily described an unhinged chess world champion called Fischer in his 1935 novel *Blindung*), Stefan Zweig and Vladimir Nabokov all seized on chess and its human dilemmas. Their books were informed by the pre-war café chess culture, by Freud —

who had quickly decided that chess was an oedipal game — and by a sense that chess represented some kind of order in a world of crumbling empires.

That all makes sense to the Polish émigrés who play chess and drink tea in south Kensington and Paris, to the Russian Jewish immigrants in New York and Jerusalem, to the elderly Hungarians in Vienna. For these people, life often froze at the moment they were forced to leave their homeland, and chess represents one of the few certainties of their new lives. Café chess is thus all too often an old man's game. Another reason why Lasker remains a hero to them — he was still playing brilliantly at the age of 65.

Sadly the chess café tradition is withering. Many European countries report a strong youthful interest in the game, but computer chess seems more appealing to teenagers than a board in a pub or a café. Most university towns of central Europe have a café or two with a board behind the counter,

but it rarely sees action. Communist rule in the east tried to transform chess into a form of front-line ideological sport — talent spotters roamed the clubs and gave intensive tuition to promising eight or nine-year-olds. Café chess was seen as a bourgeois relic of empire. It survived despite official displeasure but only just.

The rebirth of capitalism has made things worse. The young talent of eastern Europe has little time, the old can barely afford the prices. The Hungaria, a glorious turn-of-the-century haunt in Budapest, has been renamed the New York café and the players have disappeared. The Royal Restaurant has closed its chess parlour for lack of customers.

Yet there are alternatives. In Budapest's outdoor spas, knots of chess fans gather in search of a game. The favourite is the elaborate stone-carved courtyard of the Szechenyi spa, named after Hungary's great liberal reformer who set up Hungary's first chess club.

Shoulder deep in the thermal waters, the players take out floating cork boards and lay out their pieces on the stone ledge at the pool's edge. Between games they swim or nip into the sauna.

That may not have quite the same magnetic pull as the coffee house. For one thing, café players do not pursue the physical regimes favoured by tournament contestants; frequently their bodies bulge like chess-board bishops. However, there is hope that café chess will revive. World chess championships have always triggered huge interest, and enlightened coffee houses have encouraged the playing out of matches. A useful opportunity, perhaps, for those London restaurateurs who complain about sluggish business.

Additional reporting by Lucy Hooker in Budapest and Ed Owen in Madrid. The Times World Chess Championship match between Gary Kasparov and Nigel Short begins on September 7. To book a seat, ring First Call on 071-497 9977.

Ever wondered how intelligent you really are? My husband told me that when he was a boy he did a Cassell's Intelligence Test and was asked: "Which is heavier — a pound of feathers or a pound of bricks?"

He thought it was a stupid question and answered that the bricks were heavier. He was shocked to learn that he had fallen into a trap. "I never dreamt that anyone would be trying to trick me in that way," he says. "I was a very trusting boy."

In adult life you can equally have the rug pulled from under your feet — especially if you have just been made to feel bottom of the range by a computer or car mechanic who has talked to you in unintelligible jargon and charged you hundreds of

Is cleverness, after all, a matter of circulation?

WEEKEND VOICE: Mary Killen

pounds for what you suspect was the equivalent of putting a new fuse into a plug.

Even recipe books can make some people feel inadequate, with the presumption that the reader is already at the equivalent of A-level stage in cooking. What if you don't know what "clarify" or "blanche" mean?

You fall at the first hurdle and have to buy boil-in-the-bag instead.

Books written by academics are another area for undermining. Renowned intellectuals may be quoted on the cover saying things like "Written with grace and verve" or "illuminating", yet paradox-

cally many academics, especially teachers, pride themselves on their lack of clarity.

It is probably natural to want to exclude others from the citadel you yourself have gained access to, for reasons of natural facility. Willie Landels, the dramatically attired early 1980s editor of *Harpers and Queen*, is said to have been sitting in the open-plan office one day when his managing editor came walking across the room bearing triumphantly.

"Circulation is up by 5,000, Willie!" she said.

The toga-clad Landels looked up, and sniffed. "Who are all these new people who

are reading the magazine?" he said snootily.

And who can deny computer mechanics the undoubted pleasure they must gain from those moments of superiority they derive when, emerging from their fluorescent bunkers to help others on twice their salaries, they display their own prowess, yet still leave their victims impotent and dependent.

When I was doing A-levels



our teachers disapproved of Cole's *Notes*, those study guides which present classic literature and tell you in schoolgirl language what is meant to be happening in each chapter. I would love to have been able to see James Joyce flicking through a copy of *Cole's Notes to Ulysses*, and wonder how irritating he would have found it.

I wish now that I had been less deviant and simply gone

and got *Cole's Notes* to my A-level works because, as Nabokov said: "You can't read a book, you can only re-read it." Once you've got the gist of what's going on you have to start at the beginning again to get the full rewards.

Yet perhaps those teachers were right. It is good for the brain to be forced to work as, rather like a muffle, the more you subject it to, the more capable it becomes.

I found this out for myself when reading Proust. At the beginning, when I had got to the end of one of his page-long sentences, I had forgotten what was at the start of it, but with perseverance I was soon

reading for enjoyment rather than brain exercise.

We're all getting used to information being presented in "palatable nuggets", but Dr Theodor Dalrymple recently put forward his theory that the malaise gripping Britain's youth is boredom, caused in part by modern teaching methods which say that learning has to be fun. So attention spans are diminished unless the "lesson" is as exciting as the things we watch on videos.

One youth I know named Ambrose is highly intelligent but was badly educated, and used to say things like: "What's Handel?"

One day his mother and I

were watching him lying on the floor making telephone calls. He kept slapping — not concentrating when he was keying in the numbers, and getting the wrong ones.

His mother said: "I always thought that my children would be cleverer than I am, and would introduce me to new fields of knowledge." She laughed fondly.

Ambrose sat up indignantly. "What do you mean? I'm far cleverer than you are!" "No darling, you're not," said his mother. "Why, only the other day you had to ask me the meaning of the word *hitherto*."

Ambrose stared at her in contemptuous silence for a few seconds. Then he said: "Well, knowing the meaning of *hitherto* hasn't done much for your varicose veins."

Triumphant French in Tennis Victory

SOTHEBY'S



Before you settle down to enjoy the 1993 women's final this afternoon, you might be interested to learn that Sotheby's will sell a portrait of Guillaume Barceillon, a great French tennis player from an age when the game was in disrepute in England. Guillaume Barceillon became *pammy* to King Louis XV in 1753, the date of this portrait. In 1802 his son Joseph beat the then famous English professional, Philip Cox, in a celebrated match at St. James Street Court. Another son, Pierre, was the author of the first published rules of tennis.

This interesting portrait is one of almost 500 Old Master Paintings to be sold in London on Wednesday, 7th July.

The sale is on view to the public on Sunday 4th July, 10am to 4pm and the 5th & 6th July from 9am to 4.30pm. For those tennis fans who wish to see the men's final on Sunday, but would still like to view out of work hours, there is an evening view on Monday 5th July between 6pm and 8.30pm.

For further details, please call Hugh Bingsbach 071-408 5155 Mon to Fri. Sotheby's, 74-75 New Bond Street, London W1A 2AA.

Forsaking comfort, Andrew Pierce tries an activity holiday in Morocco

Travelling by Atlas

The tour operator said it would be action-packed: white-water rafting, camel trekking, mountain biking in the Atlas range and hiking in the Moroccan sub-Saharan desert for six days. But journalists are not renowned for their fitness and are reputedly more at home on a bar stool than on the back of a camel, so I was given only the briefest glimpse of what you can expect on the full 17-day expedition.

The rafting sounded most daring. During a three-hour drive by Land Rover from Afourer — three hours from Casablanca — high into the mountains, I imagined riding the rapids, fighting against powerful currents, fighting to stay afloat. I was disappointed. The Ahnsal river, far from being a swirling cauldron, was like an advertisement for Radox. Real expeditioners go between March and April, when the river level is higher.

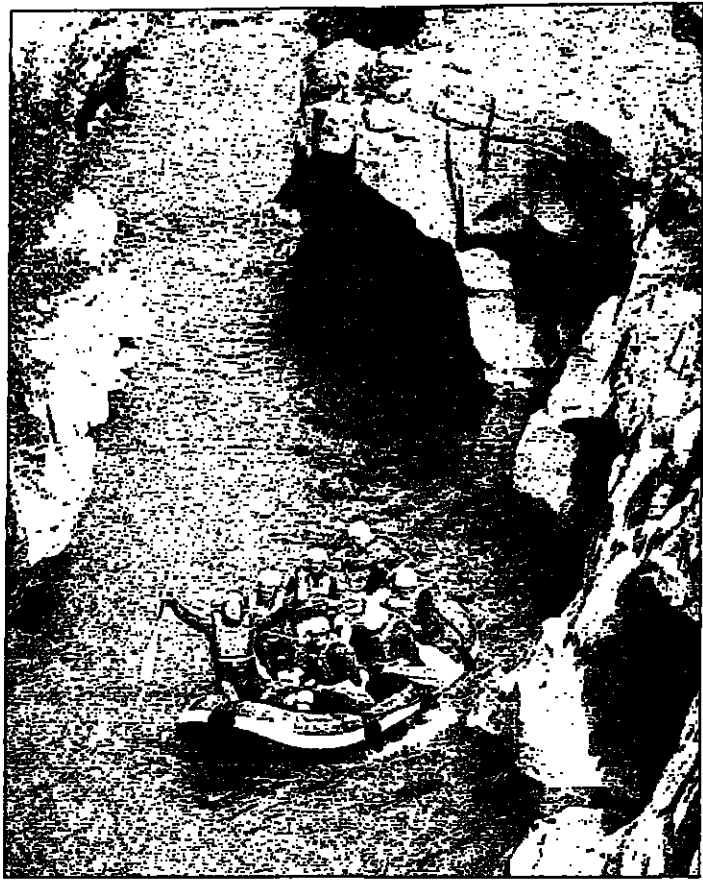
I plunged knee-deep into the sparkling water, in a wet suit, to begin a gentle six-mile ride down the river. In two-and-a-half hours, the sights were unforgettable: barbery monkeys, giggling Berber women and children washing their clothes, valleys, gorges and occasional glimpses of snow-capped mountain peaks.

Locking paddles with the adjoining raft, captained by an exuberant Frenchman, provided the biggest action thrill. But this was not the Battle of Trafalgar; ornamental fishponds have seen more drama. Lunch in the Berber village of Tilouguite was more adventurous. Food was served in a traditional mud, straw and stone house with the only splash of colour on the walls provided by a portrait of the King of Morocco.

Tagine was on the menu; it usually is in Morocco. Cooked in a conical clay pot, it is a mixture of goat, or lamb, with sweet potatoes, peas, spices, paprika and vegetables. The food was followed by hot mint tea, an acquired taste.

Back in the Land Rover, we set off for the most dramatic part of the venture: Marrakesh. The architecture is awesome, especially the Koutoubia Mosque, with its 180ft minaret.

The covered alleyways leading to



Raft graft: tackling the Tilouguite Gorge on the Ahnsal river

the souks seethe with craftsmen, sellers, beggars and thieves. The tanneries, where children clothed in rags and looking younger than ten were trampling leather skins by foot in the stinking heat, evoke scenes from *Oliver Twist*.

Djemaa el Fna, the most infamous square in Morocco, is an explosion of colour, chaos and confusion. Snake charmers, magicians, weightlifters, boxers, acrobats and dancers vie for tourists' money. They offer everything from hash to sex, "girls or homo"; no wonder Joe Orton loved being there. For 70p you can buy the services of a guide who literally beats a path through the hordes which besiege every tourist. It is a sensible investment.

After Marrakesh, the tranquillity and beauty of the spectacular Draa

valley, surrounded by more than 3,200 acres of palmiers — fig, walnut and grape — was a welcome contrast.

Real adventure: a two-hour mountain-bike ride on parched dust tracks, through remote Berber villages, nestling below the dramatic peaks, with little boys in scruffy shorts, the girls in brightly coloured knee-length dresses, often barefoot in the boiling heat, peering and pointing at our odd-looking procession. It is hot and thirsty work, but deeply satisfying.

The sand and rock terrain is dominated by the remarkable Ait Ben Haddou kasbah, a magnificent fortified fortress.

We drove along a rough and remote track at the southern foot of the Atlas mountains to camp overnight in Ouminiadin in the

sub-Saharan Jebel Sahro region, north of Zagora, the old staging post for the trans-Saharan caravans. No sand dunes though.

After dinner in a huge Berber tent — tagine again — it was like bedtime in *The Waltons*, but at more than 3,000ft above sea level. "Goodnight, Andrew", "Goodnight, Paul", "Goodnight, Carol", drifted around the rocks as we slipped into a restless sleep, trying bravely to ignore the possibility of a visit from a mountain fox. The hip flasks helped.

I was up in time, just, to see the tips of dawn's rosy fingers, before a four-hour trek. I felt like Lawrence of Arabia in my Tuareg blue headgear, although my £4.99 training shoes spoil the effect.

The romantic-sounding God's Gate mountain, Bab-n-ali, was the destination. Only when you arrive and look back at the dramatic mountain terrain unfolding beneath you do you understand the significance of the name.

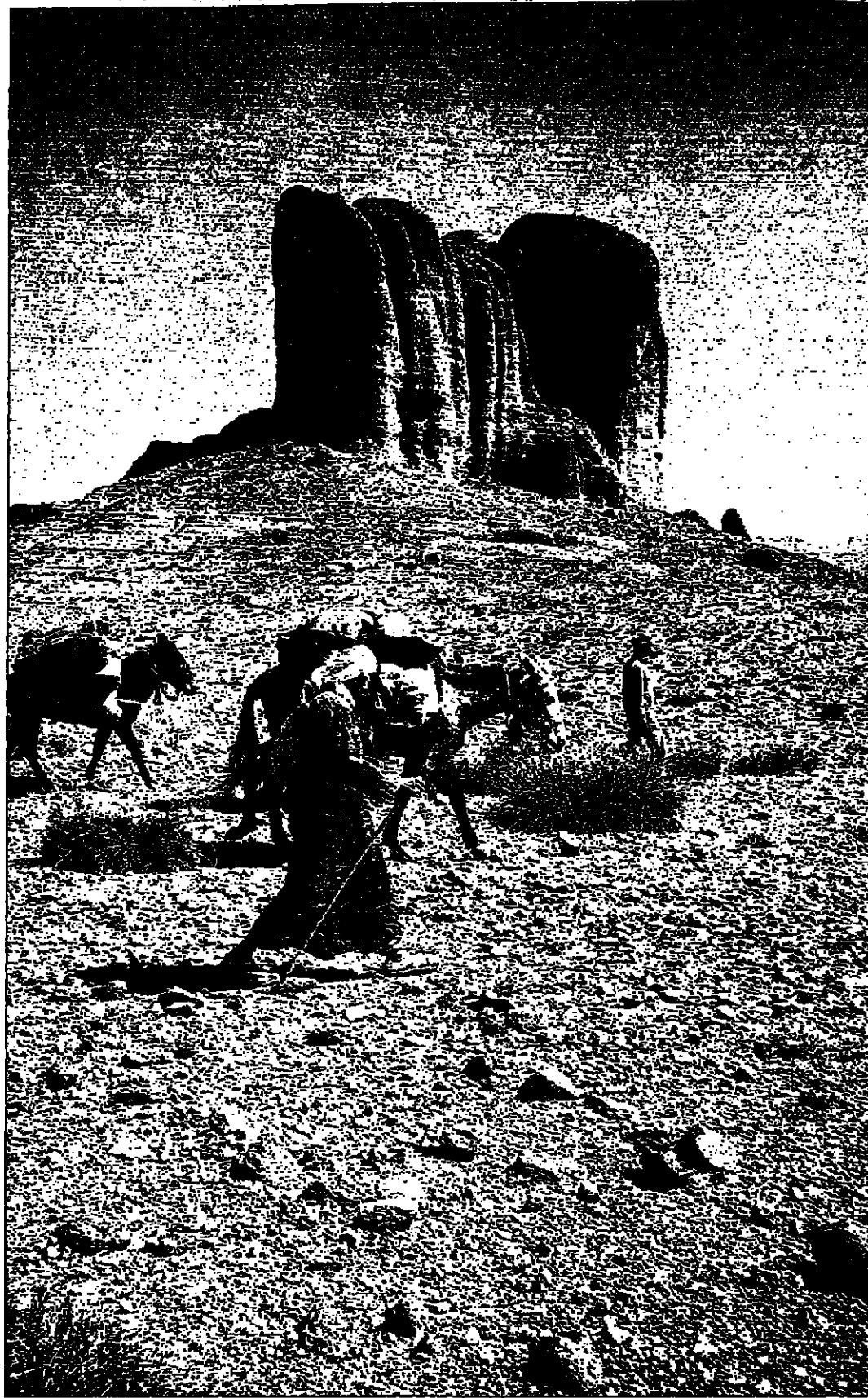
Steeped in history, it was the scene of the Berbers' last stand against the French in the Battle of Bou Gaffer in 1936. You could almost sense the sound and smell of battle in the fresh mountain air.

Led by a guide, I inched gingerly along tiny tracks, down daunting rock faces, resting at tiny oases. Lizards scuttled underfoot on the stony terrain. The sun's heat was relentless. It could have been a scene from a biblical epic. I could hardly believe I was there. Walking in the Peak District will never be the same again. It was exhilarating.

I even stumbled across a nomad tent. The children were delightful, and alone. Their mother and father had gone shopping.

● The author was a guest of Exodus, 9 Weir Road, London, SW12 0LT (081-675 5530), which specialises in multi-activity holidays. A 17-day expedition costs £1,150 and includes three days' rafting, four days' mountain biking and five days' trekking. The price includes flights, accommodation, nine or ten nights' camping, and three nights' hotel stays at Marrakesh and Ouarzazate.

Bab-n-ali, God's Gate: scene of the Berbers' last stand against the French in 1936



Where history's hand paints a perfect picture

Jonathan Gornall finds the beauty of the Dordogne valley breathtaking



Journey's end: St Céré, where a five-course dinner waits

Just three miles southeast of Souillac, our starting point, the climb begins, and we leave behind the detail of the lush valley, with its tight field patterns largely unbroken since the French Revolution.

It is easy, when walking, to let the imagination stray ahead. Breathless, hot and with the first of the day's summits seemingly no closer, the mind begins to conjure up encouragement. It presents an image of the definitive picnic site: a lofty limestone perch, commanding a breathtaking view of a broad sweep of the Dordogne, lined with tall, dark poplars.

From here it will be possible to contemplate the remainder of the day's route, the geology that has carved a landscape beyond artistic imagination,

and the human contribution to the scene — the *châteaux-forts*, churches and simple, medieval farm buildings which are the furniture of history in the departments of the Dordogne and the Lot.

At last, the top of the plateau is reached. Rocks serve as table and chairs. Nothing is said as the backpack is opened and the sumptuous spread laid out. Water is gulped mechanically. The view is all. The imagination is put out, because it is surpassed.

Across the river, far below, is the Renaissance Château de la Treigne. In the valley, the human hand is everywhere, and yet nowhere out of harmony with nature. At this moment, a human hand appears, a crab at the edge of the precipice. Attached is the human, a young French climber struggling with the overhang.

What is the etiquette? Does one offer a hand? The dilemma is solved as he hauls himself on to the caisson. Our morning's "climb" — up the easy way — has been set in its true context: rewarding, but hardly challenging. We applaud gently. He has the grace, and the energy, to laugh. He also has a Renault, parked out of sight, and lurches off down a track. For us, the march goes on, to Meyronne, and the turreted



Church door at Souillac

Hotel la Terrasse, with its worn stone spiral staircase inviting a sword fight.

These independent walking holidays by Inntravel are full of such gentle surprises. What will the day bring? What haven awaits? One evening it is the 15th-century fortified

village of Loubressac, and a room in the Hotel Lou Cantou. The sky suddenly darkens and thunder and lightning orchestrate a brief *son et lumière* to enhance the château's fairytale setting.

By the third or fourth day, the only surprise is that each hotel is of as high a standard as the last. The wonder of the first night's meal, at Le Grand Hotel in Souillac, has been replaced 50 miles on, in St-Céré, the final destination, by a certain nervous anticipation. Despite the hunger engendered by physical activity, the prospect of five full courses and a fruity red from Cahors looms large.

All meals are included (lunch is the picnic) and cash is necessary only for drinks in the evening, and for the very few but very welcome cafés encountered in villages en route. Be warned: this is not the land of the cashpoint, but nor is it a land of double yellow lines, over-zealous street signing and overt commercialism. It is, however, a land of deer and *la chasse*, small farms and their attendant *chiens bizarres*. These hunting dogs can be intimidating, and a large baton lends a certain authority to dealings with them.

Armed with the maps provided and direction cards, the

traveller makes his own way from hotel to hotel, walking for five days. To an inveterate backpacker, the luxury of having the suitcases transported each day is a joy verging on sin. You need only a day bag, for the picnic, camera and so on, and waterproof jacket. My trip was in the first week in May. It rained on day one and thereafter the weather was glorious.

History shadows the traveller everywhere in *la vallée de la Dordogne*, where caves reveal traces of early humans and even the treescape speaks of harder times: walnuts and chestnuts were grown once to guard against the failure of the rye crop. The oaks, of course, shelter the prized truffle.

If the traveller is English, then the more poignant his passing. Ahead of him rode Simon de Montfort. Here died Richard Coeur de Lion. The beautiful castles and fortified villages were created in the cauldron of the Hundred Years War. The English are back now, not mounted on thundering horses but borne in Volvos. Their intent today is not to tear down the walls and towers of the farms and châteaux, but to convert them for holiday homes: £35,000 can buy a dream property, but the

consequent hiking of prices is abetting the curious French inheritance laws in stripping the countryside of viable farm units, and setting its youth on the road to city life.

The great enmity between our nations lasted until the exigencies of the first world war, perhaps until the second. Although the region became part of the Vichy regime in 1940, the Resistance rose after D-day, and the populace suffered savage reprisals at the hands of a punitive German division. Its handiwork is marked by simple memorials at crossroads, bridges and in village squares, alongside grander memorials to the fallen of Verdun.

This is a landscape which speaks to the passer-by. The walker is closer to the soil and the lives which have grown there. Each day's journey is its own reward: each destination a bonus.

● The five-day walk along the Dordogne, including flights between Gatwick and Toulouse, train connection to Souillac, six hotels, half board and picnic, luggage transfer and transport back to Souillac, costs between £457 and £503 per person between April and September. Inntravel (0439 71111) offers other walking holidays in France, Norway, Switzerland and Italy.

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How I won the war — with Ike, Monty and Dilly

I may be the recent plethora of wartime anniversaries that has prompted this, but I find that my approach to farming is becoming increasingly Churchillian: a bit more bulldog and a bit less poodle. Take last Friday, for example. I sat at the kitchen table as the great man might have sat in his bunker: beside me was Farmer White. We were discussing the hay, yet again. It was a conversation riddled with tales of blood, sweat and tears.

I am sure you are sick of hearing of my problems making hay this year — it must be as boring as the economy by now — but to any leader facing a battle, singled-mindedness is essential. And paranoia is apparently not uncommon at haymaking time.

An anonymous reader kindly sent me a delightful book entitled *A Puller on the Midden*, in which Rachel Knappet describes her farming experiences in the 1950s. It

takes a very short time for her to come to the conclusion that "all farmers are temperamental at certain times of the year. When it rains and all the hay is cut... the boss goes about looking like a thunder cloud with a hard line between his eyes and a snappy retort for anyone who is brave enough to speak to him. The men have a stoical philosophy which supports them under the hail of curses that fills the air at these times."

Well, stoicism is running out fast in this family. My enraged wife declared last week that "the only way to get any attention round here is to be a lump of dead grass."

But despite the travails of making hay, I am now managing to rise

above it; be more statesmanlike about my farming; draw on the examples set by our leaders, and look on events as battles that we must win and not hurdles placed there mischievously by nature.

And so, desiring to be a leader of events rather than a victim, I called Farmer White, my Eisenhower, into the bunker to discuss D Day: D standing for Desperation. The hay had by now had so much rain poured upon it that it was almost as sodden as when it was mown some eight days previously. We had decided to surrender. Troops were standing by under the command of Farmer Watson, who was to roll the stuff with his special machine and stuff it in black plastic bags. This



constituted a managed, if rather shameful retreat. It was unlikely ever to make decent fodder but at least I would be rid of it. Then we listened to the weather forecast. The Montgomery of the

One day to dry, Eisenhower and I decided, and then cart it to the stacks: victory snatched from the jaws of defeat and all that. I shoved my mug of tea aside, my jaw already going slack in anticipation of a rousing speech. Victory pumped through my veins. I looked across at the damp field of grass, not believing it could ever make hay. "It could be our finest hour," I thought to myself.

I rang Farmer Watson who, thankfully, was wearing his hearing-aid, and told him battalions to stand down: then I started to raise an army of my own. I rang Dilly first. Dilly was in the Western Desert. He knows how it has to be. He answered the call. "Give us the tools and we will finish..." Then he thought again: "No, I'll bring my own fork. Better than yours." And so within a day of that fateful decision, my Dad's Army of helpers went into battle and swept

the hay into the most glorious stack this farm has ever seen.

On the scale of world events, this has been a small skirmish, but it has meant a great deal to me. It is easy to turn your back on farming problems when, these days, there are so many courses of action to extract you from the hole you are in. It would have been no problem for me simply to buy-in the hay we needed for the winter. But I chose not to, for those whose farming practices have provided my inspiration had no choice in these matters, and neither must I.

Tempting though it is at times, we shall never surrender. Our haystack stands now as an emblem of our determination. As farmers go, I know in my own heart that I rank more in Captain Mainwaring's league than Churchill's. But it is the same for all of us. Without victory there is no survival.

Farming out the organic work

Joanna Gibbon reports on the volunteers who work for the fun of it on organic farms



Blooming fun: colourful flowers to grow by the harrowload

For many, the idea of getting away from it all at the weekend is to relax in a rural setting: cows in the field, birds in the hedgerows. So who, one wonders, would want to suffer backache and blistered fingers by working on a farm all weekend? Rather a lot of people, says an organisation called Working Weekends on Organic Farms (Wwoof).

Since 1971, Wwoof has introduced the keen — usually townies wanting to know more about organic farming or gardening — to those farmers who need help on their phosphate-free domains.

I found Sharon Haimkan, aged 22, lending a hand in a one-acre field of hay on Hilary and Robert Maidstone's nine-acre smallholding near Norwich, Norfolk, one scorching Saturday afternoon.

It was her second weekend Wwoofing, as it is known; her first was on a 175-acre farm. There she weeded mechanically, harrowed and was given a chance to plough a field: "It was the first time I had done it. I am amazed that they let me loose on the tractor; I ended up making a triangular shape in the field," says Ms Haimkan, who is a laboratory technician for a pharmaceutical company and lives in Gravesend, Kent.

The Maidstones also have a four-acre field, where they grow vegetables and fruit and keep geese and hens, and occasionally a pig, and work two other fields, borrowed from neighbours. Many of the farms on the Wwoof list are smallholdings on this scale: some are almost self-sufficient. The Maidstones rarely need to

buy anything from the shops. Ms Haimkan joined Wwoof after seeing an advertisement. "I was a bit nervous, but I thought it might be interesting: I walk a lot in the country, I'd rather be here than in the city," she says. Previously, she had learnt about footpath construction, step-building and coppicing with the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers. She says her friends think she is eccentric.

Her day at the Maidstones began at 6.15am, milking Cinnamon, the goat, who gives four pints of milk a day. "I don't think she liked me much; it's the first time I have done it and she put her foot in the bucket," Ms Haimkan says.

The Maidstones also have two Dexter heifers, named Bramble and Elderberry, and a boisterous two-year-old bull-ock, William.

Most of Ms Haimkan's first day with the Maidstones was spent turning hay. Using a pitchfork can be frustrating to the beginner, the drying grass slipping easily through the two sharp prongs. "I am not too clever with the pitchfork but I am enjoying myself," she says. Part of the morning was spent moving the hay into a barn for storage. The Maidstones could not use a machine to bale the hay because the one-acre field is too small, so the rich, clover hay was stacked in the barn.

There is nothing precious about the Maidstones' attitude to their animals, or their way of life. William is destined for their deep-freeze in a year's time; their last pig, a Large Black, made the fatal mistake of pushing over his fence and



Fruits of volunteer labour: harvesting fresh tomatoes on land listed with Working Weekends on Organic Farms

eating three goose eggs. The family is enjoying the pork.

"Pigs are very inquisitive," says Mr Maidstone, who confesses that they do get attached to their breeding stock: an old Jacob ewe, well past her prime, is still with them.

The Maidstones plan to buy some more pigs, which are useful recipients when the cows produce too much milk for the family's needs. Mrs Maidstone also makes butter with some of the surplus milk. A vegetarian, Ms Haimkan was not planning to taste the meat, but she enjoyed Mrs Maidstone's freshly baked bread.

The vegetable patch needs weeding constantly. The Maidstones use raised beds, where the soil is dug so deep that it becomes looser and more aerated. Among other vegetables they grow potatoes, garlic, beans, cabbages and Jerusalem artichokes.

While both farmer and volunteer can do well out of a Wwoof arrangement, a visitor must be prepared to co-operate with the host's plans and vagaries, the weather and whatever else comes his or her way. The farmer, who may have to be patient with beginners, can also reap great rewards if the Wwoofer is

experienced. People from Hungary, Germany and Spain as well as Britain have worked with the Maidstones. "All are completely different. A few are thinking of farming like this themselves, so they want to learn," Mrs Maidstone says.

Apart from Wwoofers, the Maidstones, who both work part-time, have no outside help, and keeping control of their smallholding is hard work. They wish they had known about Wwoof before they bought their land 12 years ago. "It would have been nice looking at other people's places, to see how they do

things," Mr Maidstone says. The next step for Ms Haimkan, having completed two weekends satisfactorily, is to join Wwoof's Pay-It-Yourself scheme, where she can call any farm listed and plan visits of several months at a time, if she wants. As yet, she says, she has no urgent plans to farm: the real thing is tough, and soon shatters any romantic illusions about organic farming.

When asked if she had an ideal of a perfect farm, Mr Maidstone swiftly replied for her: "Set-aside."

Wwoof: 19 Bradford Road, Lewes, Sussex, BN7 1RB.

Feather report



Spirit of the water meadows: the yellow wagtail

Summer visitors scoop the pools

At the beginning of January, I wrote about the thousands of wild swans on the Ouse Washes, that strange, beautiful terrain that lies between the fenland canals on the Cambridge-Norfolk border. Most of the swans are now far away, breeding in the Arctic, although two injured Bewick's swans and two injured whoopers have remained behind and can be seen on the lagoon.

Apart from these lingerers, what else can be found on the Washes six months on? Much of the flooded land has reverted to meadow for the summer, and the really spectacular birds of this season are the black-tailed godwits. They are tall, handsome waders that walk about in the remaining pools on their long legs, dipping their heads beneath the water and probing for food. But they need dry land for nesting, and this year there was already plenty of it by May, when they like to begin.

As a result, two pairs have bred successfully on the Washes for the first time in ten years. They are often to be seen from the hides at Welney, Norfolk, where the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust has its centre (0353 960711).

Lapwings and redshanks have had a good summer, with their young now practically full-grown. The lapwings fly from the fields to the muddy edges of the pools with a slow, wobbling motion. The redshanks speed from one feeding-place to another on slim wings with silver trailing-edges, and when they settle, they walk about delicately on their bright red legs. Both species will soon be forming loose flocks and moving away, the redshanks mainly going down to the coast. There are also one or two greenshanks about — larger, paler birds than the redshanks, with an upturned bill and green legs.

Snipe also breed in the meadows, but they have not done so well yet: they are later breeders than the other common waders, and some of their nests were washed out in the June rains.

There are also plenty of small birds in this watery countryside. Along the edges

of the rivers and canals, you see a yellow wagtail every few hundred yards, sitting on a fence or on a thistle with its tail bouncing up and down. With their yellow underparts and greenish backs, and their quick, undulating flight, they seem like the spirit of the water meadows. They have a short, sweeping call, recognisable from a long way off.

Hundreds of swifts hurtle past, screaming, as you walk along the canal banks. Sand martins twist and turn above the water, as they have done since time immemorial — but this year they are of special interest. A vertical cliff of sand was dug out not far from the centre three years ago and was immediately discovered by sand martins, who burrowed out nest-holes in it. Last year there were 20 pairs; this year fewer returned at first, but in the past few days — unusually late for them — more have arrived, and they look as if they are going to nest too.

The landscape is lush now — swathes of purple loosestrife grow at the edge of the water, the willows and osiers are dense with leaf, the reeds are tall. Young sedge and reed warblers are taking in places like these, with their parents still feeding them. A hobby has been sweeping across the lagoon: house and sand martins are favourite prey, and it can catch them on the wing.

There are two or three months of abundant food ahead for the yellow wagtails and the warblers, the swifts and swallows and martins. The adults will have time to recuperate from the labours of breeding, and the young will have time and leisure to grow up. But all of these birds are summer visitors to Britain: and by the time the wild swans return, and the meadows have vanished under chill water, they will be very far away.

DERWENT MAY

What's about? Birds in open fields look for lapwings newly returned from the Continent. Twisters — red-necked phalaropes, Tring Marshes, Suffolk. Sandpiper warbler, Filly, North Yorkshire. Details from Birdline, 0891 700222. Calls cost 36p a minute cheap rate, 48p a minute at all other times.

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Cream of Cornish pasties

Josephine Fairley finds out what makes Ann Muller's specialties worth a detour

They do not see many Securitor vans on the Lizard peninsula in Cornwall. Until a Herefordshire businessman ordered one, a few weeks ago, to collect two dozen Cornish pasties from Ann Muller's Lizard Pasty Shop, the last occasion anyone could remember when the security firm came to fetch some gold ingots discovered on the cliffs of this southernmost point of Britain, which had somehow failed to reach their destination. The pasties, fortunately, fared better.

Mrs Muller, 39, is accustomed to people going out of their way to try her pasties. Not only do Cornish people make regular pilgrimages to her bakery from all over the country, one couple travelled all the way from New Zealand. "Friends had told them that they had to have one of my pasties if they came to Europe. They were actually going to the Lake District, but they made the detour specially." It is not difficult to appreciate why. Compare the rich, crumbly pastry and fresh-tasting filling of Mrs Muller's hefty £2.20 pasties with the versions commercially available, and there is no contest. Although born on the Lizard, Mrs Muller never expected to become a Cornish pasty-maker *extraordinaire*. Her only previous catering experi-



Happy crimpers: Ann Muller (centre) works with her helpers Christine Legg and Linda Kemp in the bakery her husband created in their garage

ence was waitressing in a vegetarian restaurant in Notting Hill, west London, 20 years ago, to take out her artistic grant. "I'd never even made a pasty till about ten years ago, even though it's something which all the women in my mother's Cornish family traditionally did."

She learnt in an emergency, when she was summoned by her mother, Hettie Merrick, a professional pasty-maker, to a Breton agricultural fair, where demand was dramatically and unexpectedly outstripping supply at a stall Mrs Merrick had set up. "At the end of a day of pasty-making, I

could crimp them as fast as mother," Mrs Muller says. Soon afterwards she began making pasties for neighbours, "who'd bring gifts of fresh fish they'd caught or vegetables they'd grown, and who treated my living room like a waiting room, sitting around gossiping over cups of tea if the pasties hadn't come out of the oven yet."

Inspired by the response, Mrs Muller and her mother started selling their wares from a stall in the nearby market town of Helston, graduating to a shop in Porthleven. But when juggling family and pasty shop became too much, Mrs Muller's husband transformed the garage of their semi-detached into a pasty kitchen, where she is able to crimp away to her heart's content, keeping one eye on the Zanussi industrial oven, and one on her teenage son and daughter. She opens four days a week, from Tuesday to Friday, when a steady stream of pasty fans beats a path to her kitchen door. She reserves the other three days for her family.

Her mother, meanwhile, set about writing a history of the pasty, complete with family stories and recipes (and available by mail order from the shop). As Mrs Merrick documents in her pocket-sized book, there are infinite variations on a theme: liver and onion, cheese, egg and pars-

ley, beef, egg and bacon, pork and squash, all "pressure-cooked" inside an unbleached pastry casing without pricked airholes. "You can put anything in a pasty—even fruit," says Mrs Muller. "The only rule is that all ingredients are used raw—which is what distinguishes a pasty from any other pie." Vegetables are sliced, meat or fish chopped into 1/2 in cubes. She herself prefers a vegetarian version made with wholemeal flour—which she is proud to sell to the discerning wholefood pioneers who founded Cranks, and who have a cottage nearby.

Pasty myths and legends abound. Nobody can quite pinpoint when pasties originated, "but there's a letter in existence from a baker to Henry VIII's Jane Seymour, saying 'I hope this pasty reaches you in better condition than the last one...'" Over the centuries, they became the staple diet of Cornish miners, engineers, blacksmiths. Everyone but fishermen. "It's bad luck to take a pasty on board," explains Mrs Muller, whose husband Tony mans the Lizard lifeboat. When she made the mistake of going aboard the lifeboat with a pasty in her bag a few weeks ago, it developed engine trouble. "Then I was transferred to another boat, and that went wrong, too. The

captain of the boat rang my husband later that night to say he'd identified the problem with the boat: 'Ann Muller's bloody pasties.' When fishermen set sail, they leave their pasties ashore—one reason why home-made pasties are traditionally marked with the owners' initials, to avoid confusion. (For a Cornish wedding recently, Mrs Muller was asked to supply 140 of her pasties with the bride and groom's initials surrounding a pastry heart.)

On terra firma, meanwhile, the pasties are clearly more auspicious: "According to superstition, it's pasties that keep the devil out of Cornwall," she says. Mrs Muller dreams of one day franchising the business, establishing little "Cornish kitchens" ("An Gegin", in Cornish) in the high streets of Britain, selling fresh, 12oz pasties substantial enough to satisfy all but the heartiest of appetites. "Actually, I think they've the potential to be the perfect British fast food, a native alternative to Kentucky Fried Chicken and McDonald's." Meanwhile, far-flung customers wishing to enjoy Mrs Muller's pasties must make a detour to the Lizard. Or call Securitor.

● The Lizard Pasty Shop is at Beacon Terrace, The Lizard, Cornwall (TR26 2QD). Pasties and Cream by Hettie Merrick is available by post for £2 inc. P&P.

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Tips on the most humane way to dispatch lobsters and crabs

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FOOD SPY

you will see a small hole at the base of a

recipes and have come to the conclusion that to get the freshest, sweetest product, you should cook the crustacean yourself, rather than buying it ready-cooked.

However, cooking it yourself means killing it yourself. There is, according to the RSPCA, no known way of killing lobsters absolutely humanely, and if there is any uncertainty, the animal needs the benefit of the doubt.

Some people suggest stunning them electrically; others recommend putting the lobster into lukewarm salt water and very gradually raising the heat. The short, sharp blow through the nervous system has its advocates, too. But in Canada and Maine, lobsters are plunged into an inch or two of fast boiling water. Some cookery experts insist that the lobsters die in a few seconds. The RSPCA says that it can take two or three minutes for a lobster to die in boiling water. If a large number of crustaceans are being cooked in a big pot, it can take much longer because the water will take much longer to come back to the boil.



Lobsters live in very cold water, and the RSPCA recommends, as the least inhumane way of killing them, and the one most feasible for a domestic kitchen, chilling the lobster in ice slurry or in the freezer for about 30 minutes, which reduces the creature to a state of torpor: it is then killed by piercing it through the cross mark in the carapace with a heavy cleaver or kitchen knife, cutting right down to the chopping board. This is the fastest and most efficient way to kill a lobster, if you are deft with these implements, and is the preferred method of many chefs.

For steaming or grilling, the lobster can be split right down the middle and opened out. All that need to be removed are the feathery gills under the carapace, the stomach sac of gritty substance in the "head" part, and the intestine, which runs down the middle of the "tail" and is quite visible when the lobster is opened.

As for crabs, these creatures have two nerve centres, and these should be destroyed before the creature is cooked. The RSPCA advises using an awl or a similar pointed instrument. Turn the crab on to its back, lift the tail flap and

for a Scottish lobster, after the water has come back to the boil. The shell of a Scottish lobster is a much more defined, dark-brown colour, whereas the Canadian lobster shell is greenish-brown. Both, of course, turn bright red when cooked.

While I found that both Canadian and Scottish lobsters have a similarly good, firm, chewy texture when cooked, the flavour of the Scottish lobster was more "meaty" and subtle, and the Canadian one was more salty/sweet. I would be happy to have either.

If you decide to buy a lobster already cooked, make sure that its tail is tightly curled. A limp-tailed lobster indicates that it was dead and possibly deteriorating before it was cooked. A crab should feel heavy for its size, with no sound of liquid sloshing around inside.

FRANCES BISSELL

CHEF: Dean Fearing, 38

RESTAURANT: For this

week, The Lanesborough Hotel, Hyde Park Corner (071-259 5599), where he'll prepare week of Independence Day menus.

PRESENT: Award-winning executive chef at the five-star Mansion on Turtle Creek hotel in Dallas, Texas, where he's become celebrated for his spicily inventive southwestern cuisine.

PAST: Won 1990 "Chef of the Year" from his alma mater, the Culinary Institute of America. As "court chef" for the Bush administration, defied orders for bland food from President Mitterrand and Margaret Thatcher at Houston's economic summit dinner. "In the end George Bush told me he'd enjoyed it so much, he wouldn't let the table be cleared until everyone had

DISH OF THE DAY



finished every last mouthful."

FUTURE: Back in Dallas, he'll be working on a third cookery bible, to follow Southwest Cuisine and The Mansion on Turtle Creek Cookbook (both published in the US by Weidenfeld).

PERSONAL: Spends most of his spare time playing guitar—his first love—and adding to his collection of cowboy boots, including a pair appliqued with orange cacti.

DISH: Mansion Tortilla Soup, a hearty dish garnished by the waiter, according to the diner's taste, with strips of chicken breast, avocado, shredded cheese and crisp tortilla strips, a star of The Mansion on Turtle Creek's menu since it opened.

PRICE: Part of a £26.50 three-course menu in The Lansborough's Conservatory Restaurant running from Sunday-Friday, and as part of tonight's supper dance menu, £34 for four courses. Also features on The Lansborough Dining Room menu, £29.50 for three courses.

J.F.

Sip, sip, hooray!

(free tasting today)

at Oddbins



- 1992 Orlando Jacob Creek Semillon Chardonnay Australia £3.75
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- 1990 Sterling Vineyards Chardonnay U.S.A. £5.99
- Montana Lindauer Brut N.V. New Zealand £6.99

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Spending in pursuit of perfection

THE perfect cellar is one that contains exactly the right quantities of precisely matured red and white wines that you can afford, have space for, and want to drink. Unfortunately, as no two bottles of wine, even from the same case, develop and mature in the same manner, pouring perfection into your wine glass is rare. Wealthy wine buffs have rather more chance than the rest of us because, with no money and space problems, they can simply acquire case after case of the right names and vintages, knowing that most will come good, if not great.

ANY disappointments can always be sold on. This is one reason, incidentally, to be wary of buying any 11-bottle cases on sale at auction: the twelfth has usually been tasted and found wanting.

With more limited means and space, selection is the key to the perfect cellar. But first make certain that you have enough good, everyday house

BUILDING A WINE CELLAR: 10

white and red wines to prevent you from raiding your maturing cases whenever you want a drink. Take note, too, of family and friends' preferences: anyone dining regularly at your table, especially if they are enthusiastic wine drinkers, will need to have their vinous likes and dislikes taken into account. Unless you and yours are very white-wine orientated, red wines, given that they age more slowly and, when at their peak, remain there for considerably longer than white wines, are likely to provide the bulk of your cellar. Above all, when contemplating laying down a wine cellar, don't cheat. The wines to cellar are the bottles you know you drink, not the ones you think you ought to drink. As before, forget about cellaring any fine priced at £3.50 and below, or any whose back labels are honest enough to suggest a six months hence

drink-by date. Both bottles will break up, not mature with age.

If £100 sounds a big sum to spend on wine, sadly, as those of you who bought my £100 cellar suggestions at the end of May will know, these days it brings you less than two cases of wine to stash away.

Top up therefore with the recently arrived best of the southwest bunch, the smoky, fruit-laden Limoux Chardonnay from Hugh Ryan. With age this white will become richer and seemingly oakier still. The best Alsace whites also fill out with age, so expect this delicate, flowery, fruity, Pinot Blanc to taste better in six months than it does now.

Red wines at this price level made from the long-living syrah grape are rare, so pounce on the spiky-inky Domaine Barthes and expect it to become more velvety and perfumed with time.

Fairley's red burgundies are always a treat, and his big, full, liquorice and plum layered humble Pinot Noir from a great burgundy vintage is no exception. Reward yourself for having got this far by cracking open a bottle of the splendid, flowery-biscuity Hamm Champagne.

- £100 cellar
- Four bottles 1992 Chardonnay, Vin de Pays d'Oc, Hugh Ryan, Sauvignon £4.95, Majestic Wine Warehouses £4.99-£19.80.
- Four bottles 1991 Alsace Pinot Blanc, Turckheim Thresher, Wine Rack and Bottoms Up £4.49, Oddbins £4.69-£17.96.
- Four bottles 1992 Domaine Barthes, Coteaux du Languedoc Syrah, Thresher, Wine Rack and Bottoms Up, £4.99-£18.56.

Four bottles 1990 Fairley Pinot Noir, Majestic £5.99-£27.96.

One bottle Hamm Reserve ter Cru, Enlie Hamm & Fils, Thresher, Wine Rack, £14.99

Total: £99.07

HAVING, we hope, acquired the basics, the time may be right to move up to the more rarefied wine heights of a £500 or £1,000 cellar—details of these will appear next week. Meanwhile, make doubly certain of avoiding fine-wine infatigue by stepping up your everyday wine purchases.

JANE MACQUITT

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Lobsters come out of their shell

Frances Bissell recalls the fishy flavours of Maine with pots of recipes



THE inspiration for today's dishes comes from "down east" in Maine, New England, where I spent part of last summer. I have waited patiently until now to regale you with lobster recipes, as this is the best time to buy lobsters in Britain, whether you choose the Atlantic lobster from Canada and Maine or the European lobster from Scotland (see the article on opposite page for how to choose and cook fresh lobsters and crab).

Before my visit to New England, I had thought lobster over-rated, and preferred crab. Now that I have tasted freshly caught and cooked lobster, I am not so certain. In Maine, lobsters were so plentiful that they were on every menu, from the seaside shack to the grandest restaurant. I ate steamed lobsters at a friend's house overlooking the harbour in Camden, Maine. The correct accompaniment, she said, was "drawn" butter, melted and clarified. She was right. The sweet meat, that was both tender and slightly resistant to the tooth, needs nothing more. With it we drank a Martin Codex Albarino from Galicia in northern Spain.

pies, the high open moors, or blueberry barrens, were hazy-blue with fruit ready for picking. From now until early autumn we in Britain can get imported American blueberries, or pick our own later in the summer. If you cannot get them for a pie, I suggest you make a blackcurrant crumble: flavour it with leaves of mint, peach or scented geranium on the bottom of the dish and under the crumble.

HERE are some of the lobster dishes I have cooked over the last few weeks, using both Atlantic and European lobsters. Remember that the latter, with its thicker shell, will need cooking a minute or two longer if cooking it whole, but not if split open and steamed or grilled. I use my wok for steaming lobster, and I like to flavour both lobster and steam with oriental herbs and spices. For a Provençal-style dish, flavour the steam with thyme, bay, fennel and lemon zest, tucking some garlic, thyme and fennel around the lobster, and serve it with a dipping sauce or oil flavoured with pasta or basil.

Steamed lobster, oriental style

(serves 4 as a starter)

2 1/4-1 1/2 lb/570-680g uncooked lobsters, flavourings for the lobsters (see below), aromatics for the steam (see below)

Having first chilled them (as described opposite), chop each lobster quickly and cleanly down the centre, putting the point of a heavy knife or cleaver through the cross mark on the carapace, right down to the chopping board. Open out, and remove the stomach sac in the head and the intestine, which runs the length of the tail.

Place the lobster halves on a plate, set on a rack in a steamer. Put some aromatics in the water. I like to use a slice of fresh ginger, a long slice of orange peel or a piece of dried orange peel, and a split stalk of lemon grass or a sprig of lime leaves.

To flavour the lobster, sparingly spread on a mixture of grated ginger, chopped spring onions and garlic, or garlic chives and some crushed, fermented black beans, or

a splash of soy sauce. All of these ingredients are available from oriental supermarkets. Cover and steam the lobster for eight to ten minutes, once the water comes to the boil. Transfer the lobster halves to dinner plates, and serve with a dipping sauce of toasted sesame oil, soy sauce, rice vinegar and, if you like, a little chopped chilli and grated ginger.

Spring rolls

A little fresh lobster meat will go a long way when mixed with blanched bean sprouts, sliced and de-gorged cucumber, crushed, toasted peanuts, sliced, dried mushrooms, chopped mint, basil and coriander, and wrapped in Vietnamese spring roll wrappers, *banh trang*, which are also available from oriental supermarkets. The wrappers need to be dipped in cold water and left to soften for a few minutes. Eat them on the day you make them, preferably within a few hours. Salad spring rolls of this kind make a delicious, light lunch. Small versions can be made for starters.

MY version of lobster bisque depends on how I have cooked the lobster and with what aromatics. With the steamed oriental lobster, I made a marvellous lobster and lemon grass bisque. If you use less pungent aromatics, your version of bisque will be closer to the classical one. If you can spare some lobster meat, it will add greatly to the sumptuousness of the final version. Tomato purée is sometimes recommended to intensify the colour, but I much prefer to use a little vegetable purée, which is available in tubes from supermarkets. Save any lobster juices accumulated during preparation and cooking, and use it in the soup.

Lobster and lemon grass bisque

(serves 4)

shells from 2 steamed lobsters
1 or 2 lemon grass stalks, sliced
2oz/60g butter
1 1/2oz/50ml milk
lobster liquid
2 celery stalks, sliced
1 small onion, peeled and sliced

1lb/450g flour
1tsp vegetable purée
4pt/140ml single cream
pinch of mace, or freshly grated nutmeg
lobster meat (optional)

Separate the tougher pieces of shell, such as the heavy claws and carapace, from the softer tail shell, small claws and inner part of the carapace. These softer parts can go with the vegetables etc. into the food processor. The hard pieces cannot: instead, chop them with a cleaver and gently fry them in half the butter for ten minutes. Pour on the milk, and allow to simmer for 15-20 minutes.

Meanwhile, in a separate saucepan, cook the lemon grass, onion and celery in the remaining butter until the vegetables are translucent. Sprinkle on the flour and stir it in to absorb the butter. Stir in the vegetable purée and gradually strain in the milk, stirring continuously to obtain a smooth mixture. Add the soft parts of the lobster shell, bring to the boil, and simmer for ten minutes. Allow to cool

slightly before putting in the food processor or blender. Process for a few seconds and then press through a sieve into a clean saucepan. Reheat, adding any lobster juices and the cream. Season with mace, salt and pepper, and serve immediately.

A few spoonfuls of leftover lobster bisque makes a delicious sauce for steamed or poached white fish. I like the soup served chilled, with plenty of chopped dill in it. Dill is excellent with lobster, as it is with most shellfish.

Another way of making freshly cooked lobster meat go further is to mix it with sliced, freshly cooked, waxy potatoes and diced celeriac, chopped dill and mayonnaise, and serve it as lobster salad.

Cooked and diced lobster, mixed with cream or melted butter, makes a very tasty filling for a baked potato.

Blackcurrant crumble

(serves 6)

1 1/2lb/680g blackcurrants, stripped from their stems and rinsed

6oz/170g caster or light muscovado sugar
fragrant leaves

Crumble topping

2oz/60g flour

1oz/30g rolled oats

1oz/30g chopped almonds or hazelnuts

1oz/30g ground almonds or hazelnuts

3oz/85g unsalted butter, chilled and diced

Mix the fruit with half the sugar and spoon into a buttered baking dish. Put the bay, mint, scented geranium or peach leaves on top of the fruit.

To make the crumble, mix the dry ingredients with the remaining sugar and work in the butter until it resembles coarse breadcrumbs. Spoon on top of the fruit. Bake in a pre-heated oven at 200C/400F, gas mark 6, for ten minutes and then turn down to 180C/350F, gas mark 4, and bake for a further 15-20 minutes. Serve warm. You can make a custard, infusing the milk with the same scented leaf that you used with the crumble.

Barbecue a burger the American way

Tomorrow is America's Independence Day — a good excuse for an outdoor party

I would be positively un-American to celebrate July 4, America's Independence Day, without a barbecue. Should you want to join in the celebration but not have a barbecue grill, you can pan-fry or broil the burgers indoors. Extras, such as coleslaw and pickles, can be bought at a delicatessen.

Begin by boiling the potatoes and "grilling" the watermelon. The watermelon can be prepared 24 hours in advance to allow the flavours to develop.

The recipe includes a British substitution: I have used cheddar to stuff the hamburgers, instead of the somewhat bland yellow American cheese. To drink as there are so many new beers available, why not buy a few different kinds and have a tasting?

Stuffed burgers on garlic rolls
(serves 4)
2oz/60g butter
1 clove garlic, crushed
dash of hot sauce (optional)
4 sesame seed buns
1lb/6oz/220g ground lean beef
4oz/120g cheddar cheese cut into four cubes

Garnish
lettuce
sliced tomato
sliced onion
barbecue sauce or ketchup



Doggone dandy: July 4 — with a barbecue party to come

gers in buns and top with your choice of garnishes.

Egg and potato salad

(serves 4)

1kg/2lb3oz new potatoes, peeled
175ml/6fl oz mayonnaise
mustard
1/2 tsp lemon juice
salt and pepper, to taste
4 hard-boiled eggs, peeled and coarsely chopped
2 stalks celery, coarsely chopped
60g/2oz green pepper, minced
120g/4oz spring onions, minced
30g/1oz parsley, minced

Bring large pot of water to the boil. Cut potatoes into 1in cubes and add to boiling water. Cook until tender (about ten minutes). Drain and set aside to cool. In a small bowl combine mayonnaise, mustard, lemon juice, salt and pepper. In a large bowl combine potatoes, eggs, celery,

green pepper and spring onions. Stir in mayonnaise dressing. Garnish with parsley.

Tip-top watermelon

1 watermelon
light rum or cognac

Cut a 2in-square piece out of the watermelon and set aside. Use a thin skewer or ice-pick to poke several deep holes into the flesh from which the square has been taken (take care not to puncture the skin). Slowly pour in as much light rum or cognac as the hole will take without overflowing. Replace the square of melon and seal with tape. Refrigerate until ready to serve. Turn occasionally to allow liquid to permeate the melon. Slice and serve.

SUSAN KESSLER
Shopping for a barbecue, page 6



Fresh start for a London tradition

MAKEOVERTONS

Overtons
5 St James's Street, London SW1 (071-839 3774)
The owners have spent £200,000 upgrading Overtons traditional fish restaurant, which reopens on Monday, with restored glass domed skylight, french windows giving on to an inner courtyard, and a new oyster bar. The managing director is Andrew Baker from 190 Queensgate, and chef Nigel Davies, 24, trained at Claridge's and was most recently senior sous-chef at Downstairs at 190. From the menu: six Rossmore oysters £7.45, crab cake £3.25, fish soup £3.95, baked halibut £13.50, grilled lobster £19.75. Desserts £4.50 or so. Open Monday to Friday 12.30-2.30pm and 6.30-10.45pm, Saturday 6.30-10.45pm, and Sunday lunch 12.30-3pm.

HIGHER LIVING
Lower Slaughter Manor
Lower Slaughter, Gloucestershire (0451 320456)
Julian Ehlers, 27, chef at Lower Slaughter, graduated from Slough College of Higher Education, and life has been on the up-and-up ever since. His experience has all been at Michelin-starred restaurants, including Le Meridien's Oak Room in London, and three years with the three-star chef Michel Loxin and Michel Guerard in France. Lunch £15.95 for three courses, dinner £29.50 for four. Open daily noon-2pm and 7.30-9.30pm (10.30pm on Saturdays).

LIGHT TOUCH
Bistro Brume
63 Fitch Street, London W1 (071-734 4545)
The first restaurant this column featured has now introduced light pre-theatre menus (changing weekly), Monday to Friday 6.15-7.30pm, until October 1. Three courses plus coffee at £12.50, very handy for Cray for You or to cheer up Les Mistralles.

ROBIN YOUNG

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THRESHER WINE SHOP

WE'LL HELP YOU GET MORE OUT OF A BOTTLE OF WINE

The smell of alfresco cooking is in the air. Nicole Swengley puts on her apron to test barbecues, and also suggests how to beautify the outdoor eating area

Light up for a sizzling summer

Like the first swallow, it is a sure sign of summer when barbecues start appearing in garden centres. DIY warehouses and department stores. Even though alfresco cooking is so weather-dependent, barbecues seem to stir in us some primitive urge for open-air cooking, which is why sales of barbecue appliances exceed about £1 million a year. But just how successful your *déjeuner sur l'herbe* will be depends largely on choosing the right barbecue.

Traditionalists prefer to cook over charcoal, which burns well provided you allow about 45 minutes to get it going before cooking. The beginner's favourite, the hibachi (not a brand name - it is Japanese for "fire bowl"), made of cast iron or sheet metal, is a reliable performer and can be controlled by draught vents. However, hibachis are not free-standing, and even the triple grill size cannot cope with large quantities.

Do-it-all and Homebase both sell double-size hibachis at £7.99, while John Lewis stores stock the Odell triple grill, £14. A superior type is the Morso Grill 85, £174 (from Divertimenti, 45 Wigmore Street, London W1 0420 542654 for other stockists).

Disposable barbecues are cheap, clean and portable - perfect for picnics or holidays. The foil tray/grill comes with its own supply of "self-igniting" charcoal and is ready for use in about 15 minutes. The small ones cost enough for one or two people (£3.45 at Sainsbury's Homebase), although a party size is also available at about £7.

Free-standing grills with screw-on or bolt-on legs are a good medium-price choice. The more sophisticated versions have adjustable grill heights, spits, a storage shelf or tray below the grill and a windshield. Trolley barbecues on wheels are similar and are much easier to move around.

John Lewis sells the free-standing Odell Tristar, £25.50, and Odell Eurostar, £49, while Homebase

has the free-standing Verona at £32.99 and the Kirkless Firenze trolley at £49.99. Do-it-all sells the Winchester Odell trolley barbecue, £30.99, while John Lewis has the Black Knight Firenze, £59.

When choosing this type of barbecue, it is important to check its stability. Also look out for thin or bare patches of nickel-chrome plating on the food grill, and check that the bars are close enough to hold small sausages and chicken wings. Air vents in the fire bowl make lighting and control easier.

Kettle-type barbecues offer greater scope still. Their enclosed cooking areas can be used for roasting, baking and smoke-cooking as well as grilling. When the lid is lowered, heat is reflected off the inside surfaces to cook food evenly.

Kettle barbecues are free standing and easily wheeled around. Some versions provide special sections for cooking vegetables, and all have air vents in the lid and fire bowl, and an ash collector. They can be used in exposed, windy areas, since the charcoal grate and food grill sit low in the fire bowl. Wagon barbecues are a rectangular, covered version of the kettle type. Most have a warming grill and at least one side table. Some also have a rotisserie.

Selfridges stocks the popular 22½in Weber One-Touch, £139.99, while the 18in model sells at Homebase for £99.99. John Lewis sells the Barbi Kettle, £75, while Do-it-all has the Landmann Deluxe, £69.99.

Despite high prices, gas barbecues are growing in popularity because of their push-button simplicity and lack of mess. Look for those carrying a tag saying they conform to British Standard BS5258. These barbecues work on a cylinder of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), which is fairly portable and stores easily. As the food cooks, delicious juice falls on a hot bed of volcanic rock or man-made ceramic briquettes. Smoke rises to envelop the food, giving a barbecued flavour.



Done to a turn: the enduring appeal of barbecues, from a *Saturday Evening Post* cover of 1958

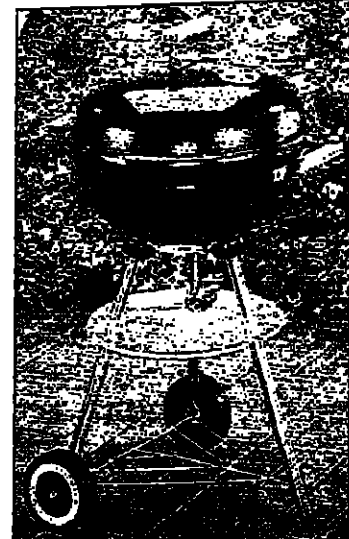
With a push-button spark igniter, gas barbecues are easy to light, even in windy conditions, and cooking can start within ten minutes. The cooking heat is precisely controlled using a knob rather than raising or lowering the food grill. After cooking, the gas is turned off. Volcanic rock or ceramic briquettes can be burnt clean and will last several years.

Among the less expensive models are the new Thermos PE13, £79.99, and an old favourite, the Thermos WG22, £99, both stocked at Argos Superstores. Argos also sells the new Camping Gaz 6000, £99.99, and a portable version, which takes CV470 gas cartridges, at £39.99.

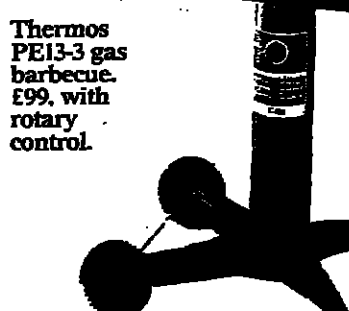
Water smokers - free-standing capsule-shaped covered tubes with

layered compartments inside - allow smoke from aromatic woods to baste and flavour meat, poultry and fish. Although they can be used in confined and exposed areas and offer delicious results, they are expensive. The Odell Charcoal Water Smoker costs £179.99 at Selfridges.

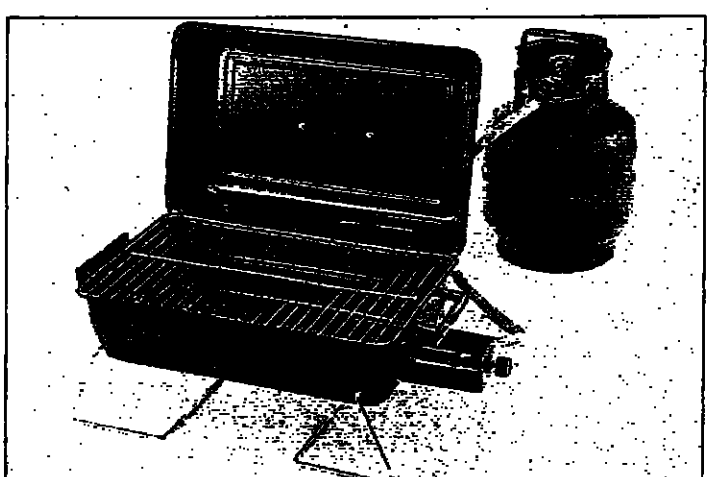
To keep costs down many people choose to build their own barbecue. Parts to fit into a brick-built frame can be bought from garden centres and DIY sheds. John Lewis stores sell the Black Knight brick kit for £29.99, while Argos Superstores have the Fir Tree Build-in Barbecue at £19.99. Kits normally include a grill, ash pan and grill supports, and the advantage of this type is a large grilling area and the satisfaction of building, then using, your own barbecue.



Landmann Deluxe Kettle barbecue, £69.99



Thermos PE13-3 gas barbecue, £99, with rotary control



Thermos portable PO3 gas barbecue, £49.99, with large cooking area, thermostat for cooking control, windshield and ignition button, operating off 4.5kg or 7kg butane gas bottle

Statues to urns

□ Architectural Heritage
Taddington Manor,
Taddington, nr Cusden,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.
GL54 5RY (0386 73414)

Antique statuary reproductions and some designs made exclusively by the company, including a stone figure of Pans, £646.

□ B & P Wynn & Co
Unit 38, Metropolitan Centre,
Halliford Rd, Greenford, Middx
UB6 8UH (0181 475 2266)

Importers of French heavy cast-iron fountains with solid brass garden tap, from £470.

□ Bailey's
The Engine Shed, Ashburton
Industrial Estate, Ross-on-Wye,
Herefordshire, HR9 7BW
(0189 63015)

Antique lead planters from £82; lion's head fountain, £85; plus cistern, £480; terracotta chimney pots from £28; new statuary from £85; reconstructed stone urns from £65; also stone troughs, garden benches, weather vane.

□ Chit-stone
Garden
Ornaments
Gardens,
Lamberhurst Road, Hornden,
Kent, TN12 8DR (0892 72369)

Huge range of ornaments in reconstructed stone including statues, bird baths, sun dials, troughs, urns. Small urn from £45; 3ft statue £230. Will design in commission and copy old pieces.

□ Drummond's of
Bramley
Birley Farm, Horsham
Road, Bramley, Guildford,
Surrey, GU5 0LA (0483 888766)

Antique statues, busts, fountains, urns, gazebos. Urns from £400 per pair. Open seven days a week.

□ Forest Stonemasonry
Yew Tree Cottage, Bradley
Hill, Stanley, Glos. GL14 2UQ
(0294 824823)

Hand-finished concrete ornaments including small animals from £5 and 3ft statues from £38.

□ Garden et Cetera
Boblow House, Helions,
Bumpstead, Haverhill, Suffolk.
CB9 7AN (0440 730774)

Spanish terracotta busts, columns, statues, frost-proof pots and urns. 4ft statue £150, head £150.

□ Mellors Garden Ceramics
Rosemead, Marshwood,
Bridport, Dorset, DT6 5QB (0297 68217)

Glazed stoneware Chinese-style lanterns which can be lit with candles or wired for electric light, from £168; pebble fountain £134; wall fountain, £260, urns, £92.

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Journey to the garden centre of the earth

Liz Gerard urges cross-Channel travellers to take advantage of the enticing gardening bargains to be picked up in France

The attractions of the wine racks, beer alleys, cheese and charcuterie counters at Auchan, Mammouth and Leclerc may be well known to Channel-hopping Brits, but not all the best buys are to be eaten or drunk. Nor are all the bargain pots intended for cooking; there are even better buys in the garden equipment aisles.

France is a wonderland for gardeners. Even the most modest supermarkets offer nifty gadgets unseen here, as well as tools and terracotta at a fraction of the price we pay.

While the devaluation of the pound last September means it is probably no longer viable to make a special gardening trip, it is certainly still worth making a list to restock the shed while on holiday in France. As with any bargain hunt, the key rules are to buy only things you need or that are unobtainable elsewhere, and to have a good idea of the "normal" price.

Different brands and qualities mean exact comparison is not always possible — but then, the bit different is one of the main attractions. Not everyone looking for something to stick under a pot plant needs the heavy-duty Stewart plastics that dominate domestic garden centres, so it's easy to see where the 64p flimsy French number scores over Stewart's £2.49 12in saucer.

In France, choice seems to be everything. Plastic tables and chairs are available in every size, shape and strength. This year, stores on both sides of the Channel are offering dark green tables and chairs that look a shade more elegant than the standard cheap white plastic, although they doubtless still hold that unwelcome puddle of rainwater just as efficiently. Prices here vary from £9 to £12 a chair, in the French supermarkets, the best are £7.

For more pseudo style, the Auchan hypermarket outside Boulogne has a couple of what they grandly call "marques" — really tent poles wearing hats. The better of the two, with side curtains and sturdier supports, costs £100 and covers an area about 10ft by 7ft. The other was bigger, more garish, and cost £50 more.

— but for that you also got a table and chair set. Such luxuries may not be at the top of the average list of priorities, given an English climate, both economic and meteorological, that militates against garden parties. But at least they are there if you want them. Here at home, the ambitious host would have to seek out a specialist shop or buy by mail order. Van Geest nurseries of Lincolnshire offers an 11ft square marquee for £169.

Much as we might yearn to spend the summer sipping champagne on the lawn, sometimes there is real work to be done, and the racks of unusual tools should be enough to tempt even the most reluctant toiler. There is a seemingly endless array of lethal weapons for use in the battle against plantain and marestail, with prongs protruding in all directions. When it comes to tilling the soil, there are little hand hoes and forks, as well as a full range of long-handled tools that are hard to find at home. B&Q now sells a long-handled spade for about £7, a price that beats most of those in France,

but the French fight back with forks, hoes and rakes for those who cherish their backs. They cost about £10 a time. I was spoilt for choice when I fell for the baby hoe: one supermarket had four, ranging in price from £2 to £8, not counting the ones with prongs or spikes on the reverse of the blade like a horticultural claw hammer.

Name-brand equipment can also come cheaper — although some models are markedly more expensive. A Gardena rose sprinkler was £6.16 in France, compared with £10.99 here, but the same company's hose trolley, which cost £39.99 in Britain, was £63. The Wolf mulchchange range was particularly good value across the Channel, as little as a third of the recommended prices at home; for example, a rake head that cost £14.95 at Notcutts was £5.87 in Le Touquet.

The biggest bargains of all come in the pottery sections, and the further south you go, the cheaper the terracotta. Any gardener touring near the Spanish border would have to be mad not to leave space in the car for the biggest pot they can fit in, but smaller savings are to be had all over the country. Giants that would cost hundreds of pounds here are available for between £75 and £100, while at the other end of the market, machine-moulded troughs can cost a fifth of the British price.

Finally, having bought the pots, why not bring something back to put in them? Agriculture ministry rules allow each traveller to import up to five plants for planting at home (with some exceptions), and it's worth taking advantage of this not only because of the prices but also because the French bedding is generally further advanced than ours. In April or May, you can buy well-established geraniums or busy lilies that would barely be plugs at home, although you risk devastation in a late frost.

Busy lilies, begonias, ageratum or African marigolds sell for about £3 for ten in France, which makes the bizzies excellent value. Even better were the fancy impatiens in litre pots (£3 upwards each at home), at just over £8 for ten. The same goes for litre zonal pelargoniums, at £1.40 each — and in a clay pot. Magic.



How prices compare

Product	Price Britain/France in £
Gardena rose sprinkler	10.99/6.16
Gardena spike sprinkler	4.99/4.37
Gardena hose gun	8.99/6.47
Gardena hose trolley	39.99/63.00
Wolf mulchchange handle	8.95/6.24
Wolf mulchchange draw hoe	13.95/7.04
Wolf mulchchange rake	14.95/5.37
Wolf mulchchange fan rake	15.95/9.38
Plastic saucer 12in	0.26/0.18
Plastic saucer 7in	0.85/0.45
Plastic saucer 12in	2.89/0.64
18in trough tray	2.22/1.19
24in trough tray	3.12/1.35
Italian terracotta trough 16in	5.99/4.88
Italian terracotta trough 20in	9.99/5.96
Busy Lizzie (ten)	9.50/3.05
Zonal pelargonium (ten)	9.50/5.88
Ivy geranium (ten)	9.50/7.64
French marigolds (ten)	1.80/3.05
Roundup weedkiller 200ml	16.99/9.40

Prices are those charged at large garden centres, apart from the plants where the British prices are the average for small independent nurseries, which are cheaper than the big stores. French prices have been converted at a rate of FF6.5 to the pound.
*This product was available at £2.23 at Auchan in Boulogne.



Pot shots: Liz Gerard shows off some of the spoils of a shopping trip to France, where she bought tools, terracotta and plants

Unpacking the old kit bag

Military memorabilia is a neglected part of the collecting market, which means there are rich pickings to be had

Collecting militaria is a neglected area, and full of bargains. The core collectors are a worthy but vanishing army of committed military historians, who often have a record of heroism in their families.

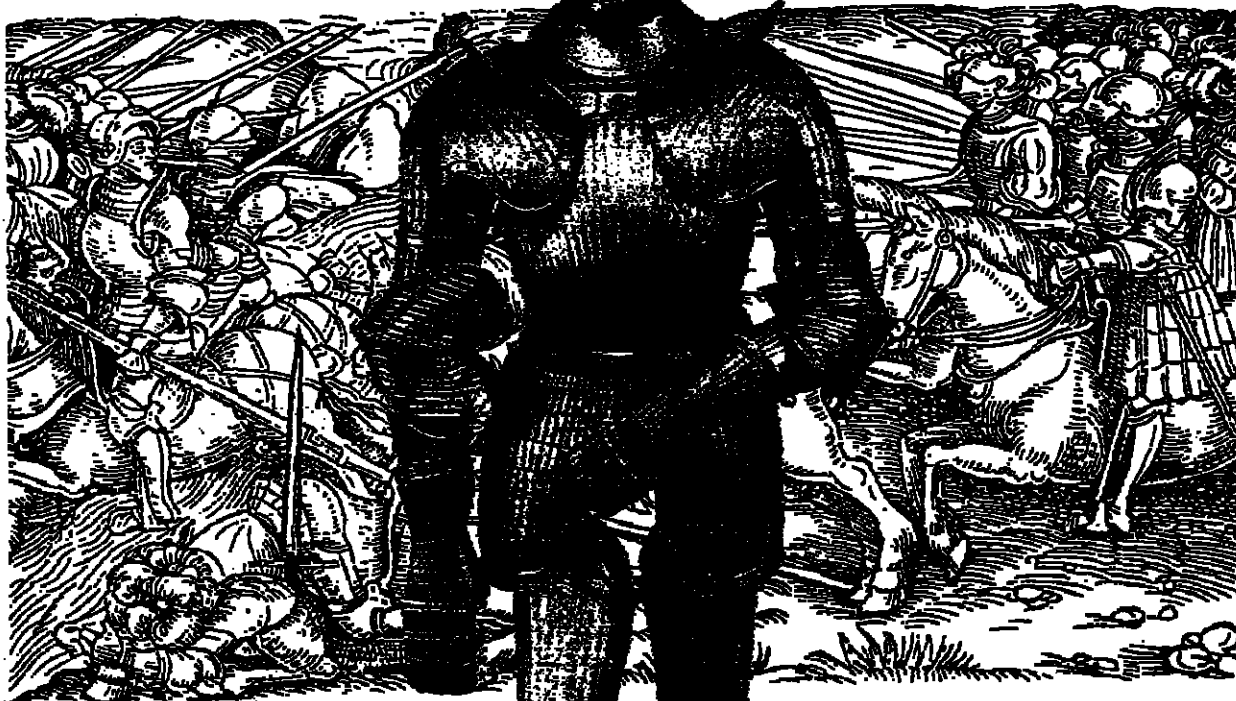
This diminishing field is thought to include fewer than 30 dealers — all based in England. Their main haunt is the London Military Market in Camden Passage, Islington, north London, which is run almost entirely by part-timers, for whom dealing provides a chance to swap items and gossip.

All of which means that now is a good time to buy militaria. Earlier this year, Christie's offered a first world war rifle for an estimated £60 to £90, and a 19th-century drum at £100 to £150. The starting prices for cap badges were £40 each, and a dress tunic from the Coldstream Guards dated 1920 was £150 to £250.

At the higher end of the scale, Malcolm Fisher at his London shop, Regiments, has been offering the war helmet and breast armour of a mounted English civil war trooper at £2,000, a complete Boer war officer's uniform at £950, and a British Tommy's uniform from the first world war at £2,500.

A declining interest in militaria may seem ironic in a society increasingly exercised by violence. In fact, within a narrow, broadly modern range, interest is at least as keen as it has ever been.

It appears that there is something rotten in the world of militaria. No longer is it the relic of past heroes that fetch the best prices, but those connected with Hitler and the Nazis. Leo Cooper, the leading publisher, is complaining that his deeply unpleasant trend, where some people



Tin man: this German fluted Maximilian

are prepared to pay £500 for an ordinary second world war German army uniform, compared with £70 for an equivalent British example.

Despite the obvious financial temptation, Sotheby's and Christie's refuse to trade in Third Reich memorabilia. Stephen Bosley, a Buckinghamshire dealer, says that a lot of the Third Reich uniforms are fakes, mass produced by the Germans after the second world war for American soldiers looking for souvenirs.

Dealing in Japanese memorabilia is another matter. Sotheby's recently offered Field Marshal Sir Francis

armour fetched £13,225 at Christie's

Festing's extraordinary collection of Japanese swords, many of which were saved by him when the Japanese surrendered at the end of the second world war. Prices ranged from £1,000, to £150,000 for a long sword or katana by the Samurai swordsmith Masayuki.

Although collecting militaria is an almost entirely male field, memorabilia associated with women is doing well. In the past four or five years, items from the ATS and Land Army have had a surge in popularity, Mr Bosley says.

For the more serious collector, a Sotheby's sale in March included the Eulen Nielsen

collection of antique arms and armour, assembled by the late Norwegian architect. Every piece was sold, realising a grand total of £569,526, which included a full suit of German fluted Maximilian armour at £13,225, originally estimated at between £5,000 and £8,000.

Even though many collectors would consider killing for a quality suit of armour from medieval times, most examples have rusted away or simply disappeared. Such was the demand for the last complete medieval suit to appear at auction ten years ago that it fetched £1.7m.

More common is the armour mass-produced in the 19th century for the mansions and castles of the nouveau riche. Because of the shortage of original, earlier armour, Victorian suits of armour, scorned until recently, can fetch about £5,000 at auction.

There are many fakes about, but more prevalent is the "tarring up" of existing items. Beware of policemen's helmets converted into the headwear of the Oxford Light Horse regiment, and the fixing of fake badges on to items. Out-and-out fakes include the Gknary badges made by a Mr Fox of Southsea around 1900 to imitate those from Scottish head-dresses.

SARAH JANE CHECKLAND

Stephen Bosley, Coldstream Military Antiques, 55a High Street, Marlow, Bucks (by appointment: 0628 822503). London Military Market, Camden Passage, Islington, London N1 every Saturday (contact Mr Bosley). Regiments, 70 Essex Road, London N1 (01433 8579). Christie's, South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (071-581 7611). Sotheby's 34 and 35 New Bond Street, London W1 (071-493 8080). Phillips, New Bond Street (071-629 6602).

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Breeding hostas to slug it out

Francesca Greenoak discovers that hostas are fighting the molluscs

Hostas have been grown and valued in Japanese gardens for more than 1,000 years, but it was not until the 19th century that they entered European gardens, where they quickly became established. Some of these ancient garden hostas such as *Hosta lancifolia* and *Hosta plantaginea* are still commonly grown, but the past few decades have seen an intense interest in the genus and a huge proliferation of different kinds.

Nine years ago Richard and Mary Ford set up Park Green Nursery at Wetheringsett, in Suffolk, and decided to specialise in hostas. Next week at the Hampton Court show (see Best Buys), they will be displaying some cultivars introduced from the United States.

The Fords also grow hostas of English origin, commending some of the grey-blue leaved cultivars such as "Halcyon". They have also found some interesting novelties of their own. Propagating the popular "Gold Standard", which is typically gold-leaved with a green margin, they discovered among the progeny a plant with a striking green-gold stripe down the centre of a predominantly green leaf.

I grow only a few hosta cultivars, but they show the diversity of the genus: a variegated *Hosta crispula*, the shiny, narrow-leaved *Hosta lancifolia*, and a grey-leaved *Hosta sieboldii elegans*. I grow them in pots as a precaution against snails, but also because I can better appreciate the textures and form. At Park Green, they protect all the hostas in spring, using slug pellets sparingly.

Mary Ford advises growing cultivars with thicker, stronger leaves that are held high off the ground in gardens with high mollusc populations, and she cites the stupendous "Krossa Regal" as an example. This is a handsome, grey-blue leaved hosta, its foliage held in an elegant, bunched vase shape. Later in the season, it produces purple-blue flowers that rise over a metre.

Other mollusc-resistant recommendations are the large-leaved "Sum and Substance", which makes a very substantial plant with glossy yellowish-green leaves. Only for large borders, it can reach almost two metres in its mature spread, its lavender flowers reaching a metre or so.

I took home with me "Invincible", a small plant with glossy, dark leathery leaves. I intend it for my shady border where I shall look forward to its scented white flowers, and find out if its slug-resistant reputation stands up in my garden.

Mr and Mrs Ford became interested in hostas after finding how well they did at their previous home with a sandy garden in the kind of conditions supposedly inimical to them. In a rich moist soil, hostas will survive both drought and a summer-than-position. In gardens where drought is a perennial problem, such as those in East Anglia, cultivars such as the variegated "Nantes" or "Frances" or "Wide Brim" are a good choice.

● Park Green Nursery, Wetheringsett, Suffolk IP14 5QH (0728 860139). Open Thurs-Sun, 10am-5.30pm or dusk.



Hosta stuff: Mary Ford at the Park Green Nursery she and her husband set up nine years ago

WEEKEND WISDOM

- Trim hawthorn, Leyland, cypress, holly and box hedges.
- Sow fenugreek, mustard seed and agricultural lupins for green manure (to be chopped with a sharp spade and dug into the soil when they are a few cm high).
- Dead-head herbaceous plants to encourage further flowering.
- Prune climbing roses after they have flowered in order to promote a good show next year.
- Sow an early maturing carrot variety (such as early "Nantes") now to harvest baby carrots in the autumn.

BEST BUYS

HIGH summer is peak time for herbs. Small pots of basil bought now will last through the season on a sunny windowsill (pinch out the flowering stems to keep it fresh and bushy). Thyme also grows well as a pot plant and is attractive as well as useful when two or three varieties are planted together in a shallow pot or seed pan. Parsleys can be bought now in pots or sown for autumn and early winter use.

● The Hampton Court Flower Show runs from July 7-11, £14 on the gate, or you may be able to get a last-minute advance ticket by ringing 071-544 4444.

Gardens to visit

- Hereford and Worcester: Spetchley Park (3m east of Worcester on A422). Formal garden with fine trees and vistas through clipped yew; kitchen garden with good borders, rock beds and drifts of Turk's-cap lilies. Tomorrow, 2-4pm. £4, child £1.
- Surrey: South Park Farm, South Godstone (1m south of South Godstone railway bridge over A22, turn right into Carlton Road opposite garden centre, then follow signs). Roses, borders, trees and small lake. Today and tomorrow, 2-4pm. £1.50, child free.
- Sussex: Merrimenis Gardens, Hawkhurst Road, Hurn Green (2m southwest of Hawkhurst). A new garden, begun two years ago, with ambitious water gardens, borders, unusual plants and young wood and orchard. Tomorrow, noon-5pm. £1, child free.

MY PERFECT WEEKEND

SYLVIA SYMS

Actor



Where would you go?
To the glorious house that belongs to my friends Pat and Mog. Set in several acres of Surrey countryside, it is an enormous house built in Lutyns style. Pat and Mog found the house ten years ago and restored it beautifully.

How would you get there?
I would drive there. The lanes are little known and you wouldn't believe it was so close to London. I have a feeling that the rich who live in that part of Surrey conspire to keep it secret. I think they turn the signposts round like we did in the war in case the Nazis invaded.

Who would be your perfect companion?
My Scottie dog, Molly.

What essential piece of clothing or kit would you take?
Unless I'm tired up for some function, clothes are what I cover my back with. I would take a pair of old trousers or shorts, depending on the weather.

What would you have to eat?
Pat and Mog have entertained me wonderfully in the past, but for once Pat would not have to prepare any meals. The Roux brothers would appear in the kitchen and make us very light food - something such as finely carved duck breast. The one problem Pat, Mog and I share is that we are somewhat plump!

What would you have to drink?
A truly great red wine, such as a Latour.

What books would you read?
I would take a volume of Fran Landesman's poetry because she understands the female psyche and makes me smile.

What music would you have?
Mog has a stereo system that you can hear in every room and always has fantastic classical music playing. I'd like to listen to Elgar and Mahler.

What would you watch on television?
A huge treat would be a rerun of *The Morcambe and Wise Show* or *Only Fools and Horses*.

What luxury would you take?
Juno, the huge hunter I used to ride eight years ago. I am sure

she is dead now, but I would love to go for a long hack through the woods on her.

Would you play any games or sport?
I'd have a knock-up on the tennis court and swim in the pool.

Who would be your least welcome guest?
Anyone who did not appreciate the magic of what Pat and Mog have created.

What three things would you leave behind?
The telephone, the cardboard box in my bedroom which contains dozens of papers - such as value-added tax receipts and the minutes of meetings - and the guilt attached to it.

What would you most like to do?
Throw a party for all my family and friends. I want a summer party where nobody is showing off and nobody wears silly posh frocks and stupid shoes that sink into the grass. People would bring their swimming costumes and tennis rackets, and we would play games and sit and talk under the trees. There would be a lovely buffet and no wasps.

What souvenir would you bring home?
Memories.

What would you like to find when you got home?
A small part in a large American film that paid an excessive amount of money for doing very little in an exotic location. Then I could play a big part for absolutely nothing in the theatre.

Interview by Rosanna Greenstreet

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WHAT TO WEAR



When elegant women head for adventure, they go dressed in Lady Karen Beeley's easy, go-anywhere designs in linen, cotton and silk.

Josephine Fairley finds out what gives the clothes, and their much-travelled creator, such enduring appeal



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From her atelier in south Kensington, Karen Beeley dresses the world's most elegant backpackers. "Who says that if you climb mountains, you have to wear shorts and a T-shirt?" demands the mostly French, partly Irish woman who took up design to stop herself going "stark raving mad" when her husband (then ambassador to Cairo) retired.

It was in Egypt, where she played hostess at the embassy for more than seven years, that Lady Beeley's unusual approach to clothes evolved. "I was inspired by the desert and the Arabs' comfortable clothes, which above all allowed movement—like when getting on and off a horse or a camel," she explains. When Sir Harold Beeley retired to England, she found herself at a loose end. Then in 1979 Princess Dina, the former wife of the King of Jordan, asked Lady Beeley to "shop-sit" at Arabesk, her emporium of Middle Eastern exotica and antique Arab jewellery, while she went on an extended honeymoon.

At that time, the 1970s love affair with all things ethnic was fading. So with the intention of creating something "more appealing to Western eyes", Lady Beeley decided to become a designer.

Her first creation was the "desert shirt", an elongated version of a man's collarless shirt, which became a runaway best-seller, thanks to its timeless appeal. So timeless, in fact, that some early customers are still wearing their very first version, to the commercially minded Lady Beeley's "intense irritation". This was followed by dozens of other pieces which evolve each season, enabling her hundreds of devoted cus-

tomers to build up an entire wardrobe of relaxed clothes, infinitely wearable whatever your age.

The range is now sold from Image d'Or, the boutique she opened five years ago. Before Lady Delamare (the legendary beauty at the focus of Kenya's *White Mischief* scandal) died, Lady Beeley dressed her exclusively. She still dresses Lesley Blanche, the 92-year-old widow of French writer Romain



Gary, who now lives in France, while other clients are in their teens. "But mine are clothes for women who do things, rather than ladies who lunch," she says.

Among her clientele she numbers writers, artists, and no less than five psychiatrists. Her longstanding customer, the artist Penelope James (photographed here), explains: "Karen's are the ultimate lounging-around clothes. The silks are also perfect, head-turning, sophisticated evening wear."

Their infinite packability—all-natural linens, cottons and almost weightless silks, always

with elasticated or drawstring waists for ease—has made them a favourite with travellers, whether by cruise liner, plane or donkey. Another artist client, 38-year-old Francesca Kelly (also pictured here), says: "They really come into their own then: take a capsule wardrobe of six pieces, rolled up, and you needn't pack another stitch."

Lady Beeley is relieved she never had to create anything for Freya Stark, even though the veteran globetrotter was a frequent guest of the Beeleys in Cairo. "She was the one shape my clothes don't work for: very short and chunky. Actually," she recalls, "having her to stay was terrifying: you had to be on best behaviour because you knew she was writing a diary, and you didn't want the world to read: 'Ah, Lady Beeley, such a boring woman...'"

Slim chance. Lady Beeley's own life reads like an adventure story: evacuated from France to a stark British boarding school during the war, ran off with a foreign correspondent to America, had three children, trained as a scientist, fell in love and married Sir Harold, had another baby, became a chateaulaine in Cairo, and now this.

She presides over her black-and-white tiled shop herself from Monday to Friday, only closing for August when she retreats to her farmhouse in the Charente to work on her winter collection, surrounded by a growing brood of grandchildren. (She is enigmatic about her age, with a smooth complexion that gives no clue, but simple maths place her at least in her sixties.) She has now become a perfumer, too: her Image d'Or scent sells in the boutique alongside antique



Francesca Kelly wears white silk trousers (£72), pink and

Penelope James wears orange silk "Impala" coat (£200), white washes pants (£92), white shoes (£79.99 from main branches of Russell & Brom; vest (£62), cream "Sierra" washed satin silk pants (£92), G.H. Elizabeth McGorian wears "Charleston" geranium flares (£125), white (£49.99). Francesca Kelly wears natural silk shirt (£125), split silk skirt.

Elizabeth McGorian wears linen long "Rainforest" jacket (wedge sandals, Liberty turquoise)

Photographs by Deniz McNeelance. Styled by Becky Bain. Photographs

Arab silver jewellery, tribal shawls and durable straw sunhats by rising milliner Gilly Forge.

To sit in the shop is to witness a stream of fascinating women succumb to uncharacteristically girlish glee. These are not clothes with "hanger appeal"; they only become stylish when on the (very varied) bodies of her clientele. One woman arrives to buy an outfit

for mountain trekking in Peru, another—straight off the plane from Sudan—to seek out a silk ensemble for a wedding.

With workrooms and expert pattern-cutters in her basement, Lady Beeley is able to offer a semi-couture service: every piece is tailored to fit the wearer, yet at a price which wouldn't secure you a Parisian haute couture collar.

هكذا من لاجل

MARATHON

Part three of coach Mel Batty's marathon training schedule: get out in the morning dew or evening cool

Sunrise, sunset, swiftly run the days



Uphill battle: as the temperature rises, runners should avoid the middle of the day — and drink plenty of water or juice

The summer months are high season for athletics. However, for long-distance runners it is too hot in Europe to stage many of the "people's" marathons which have gained such popularity during the 1980s and 90s. Instead, ambitious runners are continuing their training out of the midday sun, preferring the freshness of the early morning and the cool of the evening for their sessions. This is particularly important if you are taking holidays in hot climates. Try to maintain your regular exercise while away, or you will lose some of the fitness that you have built up in the past two months.

It may sometimes be difficult to fit in all your regular home sessions because of social or family commitments. However, something is better than nothing. It is probably easier to train in the cool early morning, leaving you free to enjoy the rest of the day without the nagging prospect of having to fit in the session during the evening.

If you are forced to miss a week's or a fortnight's training, do not worry. Just repeat the schedule from the last week when you completed all of the outings, and then build up again according to the schedule. Treat this period as one of consolidation. There is plenty of time before the London Marathon next April.

Remember to wear loose, light clothing, such as a vest and shorts during hot weather, and if you feel any chafing between your thighs or on your nipples ("runner's nipple" is now a well-known medical condition), smear some Vaseline on the affected parts.

Drink plenty during the day: you may like to carry some water or juice on the run. Sports shops stock plastic containers of different sizes, holding from a quarter to a full pint. They can be easily held during a run and many athletes have found them useful, either for very long sessions or in hot conditions.

Do not forget to do the warm-up exercises we published here last month before your outings. They are one of the best guards against injuries, which are the bane of many athletes. If you do feel a twinge, rather than just muscular stiffness, do not train. Take a few days off until you are certain the injury has gone away. If not, consult a physiotherapist: many are listed in running magazines.

When I was competing, shoes did not have the cushioning of modern products. However, injuries are still commonplace. I suffered from shin soreness, and Eamonn Martin missed two seasons because he was forced to have an operation on an Achilles tendon. However, he recovered and went on to win the NutraSweet London Marathon in April. Sadly, he is still dogged by injury, and was unable to complete the 10,000m in Rome last Sunday.

Many top runners, including the great Sebastian Coe, whose style always seemed

fluidity personified, suffer from a slight imbalance in their gait. Several consult specialists and have orthotic insoles put in their shoes to help to correct the unevenness. If you are injured, do not try to get back too quickly. Return to one of the earlier schedules and gradually work your way up again.

Even beginners for the marathon need pace. If you are planning to run a sub-four hour marathon next year, you will need to run nine-minute miles all the way for about 3 hours 56 minutes. However, your body must get used to a much quicker pace so you fulfil your long-distance potential.

One way to improve your sustained speed, as opposed to the explosive speed needed for the 100 metres, is to have one session a week of fartlek, a Swedish word meaning "speed play", in which the athlete does some faster running interspersed with jogging. This is not a session of jogging and sprinting. The fast running is only fast relative to your normal pace.

For your first session, carefully do your warm-up exercises and then jog ten minutes. Next run slightly faster than your usual pace for a couple of minutes, so that you finish the two minutes breathing quite hard. Then jog for five minutes as a recovery. Repeat three times. Go steadily. Aim for a steady sustained speed rather than a sprint. Aim to pass a certain number of lamp-posts or to reach a particular tree. Eventually, you will be able to progress to longer spells of fast running, mixed with shorter efforts.

JOHN GOODBODY

Diary of a rookie runner

STAGE TWO
Should I just be sitting back gently flexing my mini-muscles while I wait for the next instalment of Mel Batty's training plan to signal the off for part three? Or would MB expect just a little initiative, to prove I was made of the Right Stuff? Of course he would.

So, assuming I will be ordered back to the park and prepared for jogging, I shall aim, for three solid, five-minute, extra-curricular runs rather than relax and lose my form.

I am in Sussex today, but forget visions of loping along the hard-packed sand at sunset — it's all stony ground hereabouts. Now that may have a certain symbolism, but it's risky on the ankles. Am forced to pound along the prom leaning into a bank-holiday gale. Look like a hamster on a wheel — legs working overtime but little forward movement — not helped by the thought of a disappearing MB looking over my shoulder. This is definitely a jog too far.

Five minutes later am shattered and wind-battered. But am I downhearted? Totally.

Convinced I'll be a cinch on grass, if only I can find some, which isn't easy in the country. It's either fenced off, or full of sheep or some crop. Decide not to go into unfamiliar and overgrown copses without an Indiana Jones-type escort, or similar.

Back in the open grasslands of the inner city, have another go. This is seriously strenuous. For goodness sake, it's only five minutes! Give myself a good talking to. Complete the course through gritted teeth.

I've discovered a whole fitness subculture out there in the park, ranging from the fast to the fashionable. The fast are deeply intimidating. Invariably young and male, they cover acres of ground in very short order, without breaking sweat. Unlike many runners they are minimalist to a man. They do not wear Linford Lycra, natty bags round their waist, headphones, co-ordinated leisurewear, clean shoes. They keep to the hard paths, moving too quickly to swerve round the dog mess, Canada geese, and people like me in the rough, and are, as they said in Barcelona, totally focused.

They are not of this world, these people. I've never seen them slow down, let alone sit down. They have no human needs. Where do they keep their house keys, car keys, bus fare, extra-strong mints, loose change for a choice ice, sunglasses, newspaper (which I am seriously thinking of sticking down my sock), packet of tissues, drinks carton, sweat shirt in case the wind gets up? They must have a support caravan hidden behind the pavilion where they sneak off for five minutes of aromatherapy, a vegetable juice dai-

A surprisingly happy victim reports on her first weeks of path pounding

quint and a whiff of oxygen. On the other hand, the self-consciously chic labour under layers of designer sportswear and state-of-the-art matt black sound systems with sunglasses on their heads. They have long, animated, pistoned, chats with friends. They lie on the grass. There's not a lot more to say as they don't do much, but I'm grateful they are there. I can overtake them.

I suspect I will end up somewhere in between — neither fast nor fashionable — but I will definitely need that caravan before too long.

Joining me in this no man's land are some people I suppose to be Times readers, striding out across the park, one or two stretching and bending as demonstrated in the newspaper last month.

feeling I'll have to adjust my alarm clock if it's going to be a long, hot summer.

End of the month and I've kept to MB's schedule, but worried I'm not having any noticeable after-effects, ie, I can still walk the next day. Shouldn't it, well, hurt more?

Am encouraged by normal

ECG result that sensible doc insisted I have. But what does he mean, my body will soon let me know when I have reached my personal limit? Will I slowly and distressingly unravel?

Why worry? I'm still enjoying myself and although I know the walkers/gentle joggers are still splashing about in the kiddies' pool, and it will all be different when MB finally shows his hand and throws us in the deep end, I think I'll just keep jogging along for now.

Keeping on track

This session should only be used by our "advanced" beginners, as a fourth session each week. Here is their schedule:

Week one: three 22-minute runs plus one fartlek of 31 minutes.

Week two: three 25-minute runs plus one fartlek of 31 minutes.

Week three: three 28-minute runs plus one fartlek of 31 minutes.

Week four: three 33-minute runs plus one fartlek of 31 minutes.

For those who have been following the less arduous schedule because they have not taken regular exercise, the next month's schedule, still with a combination of walking and jogging, is as follows:

Walk/jog schedule:

Week one: three 22-minute walking/gentle jogs.

Week two: three 25-minute walking/gentle jogs.

Week three: three 28-minute walking/gentle jogs.

Week four: three 32-minute walking/gentle jogs.



CHRISTINE WHEELER

STAGE THREE
This week, MB gently guides us back on track. Practice all the warm-up exercises. Find the stand-up stretchers much easier than the sitting down ones, where I risk damaging my adductors (whatever they are) if I try to move out of the starting position.

In the park, I perm myself 3 from 11 before the next walk/jog and warm up under the old chestnut tree, which fascinates passers by, who assume that, along with the military band, I am part of the summer in-park entertainment. Those Times readers are braver than me. I feebly retreat.

Back home, I exercise in my front lobby, where neighbours pretend not to notice.

With a total lack of optimism after last week's fiasco at the seaside, I throw caution to the wind and go for it. Five minutes walk, five minutes jog, repeat. Amaze myself by managing this, so aim to gradually ratchet up the jogging through the month. Thank goodness MB told us to learn to walk before we could run. After two weeks and without feeling a complete wimp, only increase the walking. By no means effortless, but I do have enough breath left to argue about who bought the ice-cream last time.

The five-minute jogging sections are the tough bits, but by the end of the month I'm not looking at my watch constantly, hoping it's time to switch back to walk mode.

At the beginning of the month it was hot. A scorcher. MB right again — total madness to set off before what my bio-rhythms have always taught me is a civilised hour, ie, after 10.30am. But by then the thermometer is flashing maximum, and I find even a mini-jog physically uncomfortable. Let's be frank, in this situation ladies are way beyond merely glowing — we sweat. Have a

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— these and all the clothes from Image d'Or.

'New Yorker' jacket (£145), white 'Sierra' washed satin silk Beeley wears geranium 'New Yorker' jacket (£184), cream silk k hat (£86), Liberty raspberry knit throw (£24.95), 'Linen shirt' (£75), Russell & Bromley raffia hat slingbacks (£59.99), Forge straw fedora, Russell & Bromley raffia mules (£59.99).

'Sierra' trousers (£92), Pied à Terre basic canvas 18, turquoise ring (£90). Chelsea Gardener, 125 Sydney Street, London SW3 6NR.

I don't like the fabric. I wear Lady Beeley's clothes well into her dotage. "I can see myself waiting around in them when I'm 95, pruning my roses. You can literally wear them anywhere." From the drawing rooms of SW3, in fact, to the very peaks of Peru. How many designers can you say that about?

Image d'Or is at 7 Pond Place, London SW3 6QR (071-225 1252).

wearing Lady Beeley's clothes well into her dotage. "I can see myself waiting around in them when I'm 95, pruning my roses. You can literally wear them anywhere." From the drawing rooms of SW3, in fact, to the very peaks of Peru. How many designers can you say that about?

Image d'Or is at 7 Pond Place, London SW3 6QR (071-225 1252).



A 'British Home for Europe' is being built in Belgium to boost our building and furnishing trades. **Rachel Kelly** reports

separate study, games room, library and tackroom. "I think the British prefer to do their own thing in their own room; it may be something to do with their eccentricity, or perhaps it's got something to do with the dislike of being observed," Mr Heath says.

Sufficient storage space is essential, Mr Heath says. The British like a place for all their possessions and a place to "bury" no-nonsense cupboards." Upstairs in the three-storey showhouse there are five bedrooms, all with built-in cupboards.

The dream English garden is similarly enclosed, Mr Heath says, reflecting his company's research. "Our British Home in Europe incorporates boxed hedges and

cordoned fruit trees in the formal area, as well as terraces and a summer house." An American garden, in contrast, would have no obvious boundaries: one lawn merging with the next, especially in the suburbs — a feature that Mr. Heath attributes to the lingering old Wild West plea of "don't fence me in".

Building of the showhouse began a month ago in the district of Kapellen, one of Antwerp's most exclusive suburbs, just north of the city. The site is the heart of what the trading men call the "Golden Triangle" — the meeting of Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg, with the German and French borders not far away.

The house will be kept for five years as a show house; then it will be sold. The first three months will be a promotional period for the furnishing, building and interior decorating trade to display their wares.

For all the house's Englishness, the builders hope that its design will appeal to other Europeans. John Bailey, the chairman of Custom Homes, says: "We feel the design can stretch across frontiers and be adapted throughout Europe. Just because it is British in feel, there is no reason why other Europeans should not find it attractive."

Devon: Hoskins Cottage, 12 North Street, Ottery St Mary, about 6m from the coast at Sidmouth. Modernised terrace cottage with courtyard garden. Two bedrooms, living-room, dining-room, fitted kitchen. About £49,950 (GA Property Services, 0404 814168).

Sussex: 36 High Street, Selsey.
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bedrooms, bathroom, two
reception rooms, fitted
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THEATRE

LONDON

ALL: Impressive performance by Geoffrey C. Ewing as Muhammad Ali, old and young. *Marmalade*, Fiddle Dock. Blackfriars, EC4 (071-410 0000). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 3pm. Closes July 13. **G**

ARCADIA: Tom Stoppard in sparkling form brings together love, chaos theory and much else. With Felicity Kendal and Emma Fielding. *National (Lyttelton)*, South Bank, SE1 (071-428 2252). Tonight, Mon, Tues, 7.30pm; mat today, 7pm. **G**

AT THE BLACK PIG'S DYKE: David Thewlis's powerful drama, brought over for LIFT, is staying until the end of the month. Irish myths, runarounds dressed in stow and life today on the Lifford-Fleming road. *Tricycle*, 269 Kilburn High Road, NW6 (071-328 1000). Preview Tues, 8pm; opens Wed, 7pm; then Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Wed (July 14), 4pm, Sat, 4pm. **G**

THE CHANGELING: Michael Attenborough's wild and lusty production from Stratford, with Cheryl Campbell, Malcolm Storry, The Phil Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (071-338 8891). Wed, Thurs, 7.15pm. **G**

SEPARATE TABLES: Peter Bowles and Patricia Hodge head a fine cast in a Rattigan revival directed by Peter Hall. *Lancelotti and Broadway* in a seaside hotel. *Albany*, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-857 1115). Preview tonight, 8pm; opens Mon, 7pm; then Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Thurs, 4pm and Sat, 4pm. **G**

THE SEX COMEDIES: Seven short plays by Ian Hoggie exploring the fumble and follies of sex. *Watermans Arts Centre*, 40 High Street, Brentford (081-568 1176). Preview Tues, Wed, 7.30pm; opens Thurs, 7.30pm; then Tues-Sat, 7.30pm. **G**

SUNSET BOULEVARD: Andrew Lloyd Webber's latest musical, based on Billy Wilder's 1950 film, with Broadway star Patti Lupone in the lead. *Trover* runs direct. *Adelphi*, Strand, WC2 (071-344 0055). Previewing ayes, 8pm, mat Thurs and Sat, 3pm; opens July 12. **G**

TRANSLATIONS: British mapmakers erase Gaelic place names in 1853 Donegal; clear production of Brian Friel's subtle play exploring the uses of language. *Donmar Warehouse*, Earlham Street, WC2 (071-857 1150). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 4pm. **G**

CITY OF ANGELS: Top quality Lany Gelbart/Cy Coleman musical. *Prince of Wales*, Coventry Street, W1 (071-528 5579). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Wed, Sat, 2.30pm. **G**

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THE MOUNTAIN GIANTS: Pirandello's mysterious text play (completed by Charles Wood) on theatrical illusion and magic. *With Stan Thomas and Desmond Bank*, directed by William Gaskel. *National (Cottesloe)*, South Bank, SE1 (071-428 2252). Preview Mon, 7.30pm; opens July 14, 7pm; then in repertoire. **G**

THE ODYSSEY: Ron Cook plays the traveller in David Wilcock's mighty version of the old epic. Thrilling sound and spectacle. *The Pit*, Barbican Centre, EC2 (071-338 8891). Tonight, Mon, Tues, 7.15pm; mat today, 7pm. **G**

OLEANNA: David Suchet, Lia Williams in Mamet's blistering play about political correctness in an American college: passionate argument, riveting drama. *Royal Court*, St John's Square, SW1 (071-730 1745). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. **G**

SEPARATE TABLES: Peter Bowles and Patricia Hodge head a fine cast in a Rattigan revival directed by Peter Hall. *Lancelotti and Broadway* in a seaside hotel. *Albany*, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-857 1115). Preview tonight, 8pm; opens Mon, 7pm; then Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Thurs, 4pm and Sat, 4pm. **G**

THE SEX COMEDIES: Seven short plays by Ian Hoggie exploring the fumble and follies of sex. *Watermans Arts Centre*, 40 High Street, Brentford (081-568 1176). Preview Tues, Wed, 7.30pm; opens Thurs, 7.30pm; then Tues-Sat, 7.30pm. **G**

SUNSET BOULEVARD: Andrew Lloyd Webber's latest musical, based on Billy Wilder's 1950 film, with Broadway star Patti Lupone in the lead. *Trover* runs direct. *Adelphi*, Strand, WC2 (071-344 0055). Previewing ayes, 8pm, mat Thurs and Sat, 3pm; opens July 12. **G**

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THEATRE: Benedict Nightingale reviews the world premiere of a play by Russia's Mikhail Shatrov



Vanessa Redgrave as Lynn Forster

You can't get away from Uncle Joe's shadow

Mikhail Shatrov has had every reason to be obsessed with Stalin since 1938, when he was six. That was the year his uncle, a prominent Bolshevik, was put on show-trial and executed. Soon afterwards some 30 of his relatives, among them his father and mother, ended up on the gallows or in the gulag. Little wonder Uncle Joe stalked the plays Shatrov wrote during the Khrushchev and Gorbachev thaws. Little wonder the old ghoul even haunts his new *Maybe*, a piece which is set in and supposedly concerns the United States. The play brings Vanessa Redgrave to Manchester and, according to the programme, was written at her behest. She has got what she wanted, too: a play about

the troubles endured by liberal Americans in the 1950s. But the slant is Shatrovian. McCarthyite persecution and Stalinist terror, if not exactly equated, both become key tests of the main characters' integrity. The form — at times it seems the formula — is the play-within-a-play. One moment it is 1993, and Redgrave is Lynn, a hunched, wan woman who tells her idealistic daughter that politics bring nothing but trouble. Then it is the late 1930s or early 1950s, and she is transformed into a younger version of the white-haired figure who has been sitting speechless behind her in a wheelchair. She becomes her own mother, Patricia, who was the kind of human radiator to which Redgrave still brings more wattage

Maybe
Royal Exchange,
Manchester

than any other actor in the British theatre. Patricia's problem, it emerges, was her lover, a famous film-director called Alan and played in somewhat strenuous style by John Bennett. In 1938, he talked very passionately of helping Stalin's foes; but when he had the chance to warn Trotsky's son of his impending murder, all he could do was gulp and gobble in cowardly panic. He had an opportunity to redeem himself, and perhaps reclaim Patricia, by

refusing to name names to the House Committee on un-American Activities. But he blew it, in the process robbing her of job, wherewithal and, it seemed, sanity. This is torrid stuff, especially when Redgrave, Bennett and Margaret Robertson, playing the Polish Trot to whom they have given aid, are bombarded with big booming voices that seem to believe Pushkin, Chekhov and Tolstoy were all communists. But it is not always very credible (why those sub-Bogartian hints of Trotsky Jr's death?), nor does it ever cut very deep. Deft acting and nimble lighting may get over much of the awkwardness of the time switches. But not even Vanessa Redgrave and the sun itself, working in tandem, would be able to conceal that the

relationship supposed most to matter, the one between Alan and Patricia, is pretty sketchily conceived and skimpily explored. When it comes to greeting a friend she hasn't seen for years, weeping at the prospect of betrayal, shining or shaking or anything else, Redgrave lacks neither art nor emotional magic. But what can she do with the climactic moment at which, having learnt the full truth of her mother's generosity and mistreatment, Lynn decides after all to let her daughter fly off to seek peace in Bosnia, provoking the granny in the wheelchair to speak for the first time in 40 years? That is sentimental melodrama, no matter how brilliantly it is played.

Much ado about the nature of Shakespeare

Mark Rylance has played Hamlet and Romeo for the Royal Shakespeare Company, and a dozen leading roles elsewhere since his memorably blubbing Baby in *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* 12 years ago at the Glasgow Citizens. But the role that intrigued the popular press was his weather-beaten Prospero in his own production of *The Tempest* two years ago this summer.

On Tuesday, Rylance opens as Benedict in Matthew Warchus's production of *Much Ado About Nothing* at the Queen's Theatre. It is the first Shakespeare to appear on Shaftesbury Avenue since Gielgud was there, also as Benedict, in 1955.

The previews and pre-London tour have been played in a heatwave, but two summers ago, Rylance's open-air and alchemical *The Tempest* toured the ley lines of England in the most inconvenient weather imaginable. At its opening in the Rollright Stones, Oxfordshire, winds lashed the pavilions of Earth, Air, Fire and Water, driving rain horizontally at audiences sheltering under plastic sheets on the sodden ground. Rylance's *The Tempest* was competing against the real thing.

But if he looked weather-beaten he did not let the weather beat him, though his victory over the elements was a close-run thing. "It rained every day in June. When we played at the Globe on Bankside the place used to fill up with water, because it was just a hole at that time. So we'd spend hours sweeping the basement. But in the end it was a kind of blessing in disguise. I think the rain made it look a more profound production than we would have attained if we had had sunny weather the whole time."

"The experience tested my faith to the core. I mean, after a while I just thought I was cursed. One night at the Globe I was on duty — someone had

The invisible workings of the elements lie at the heart of Mark Rylance's latest role. The esoteric actor spoke to Jeremy Kingston

to sleep in the camper van to protect the set, and I'd got up at three to push the water off the market stall that was our dressing room. I told myself I must wake up in an hour's time to do it again — and I woke up at five, went out and everything had collapsed. My costume had been left exposed to the heavens and was drenched. I stood there looking up to the rain cursing. I don't think I would have found that aspect of Prospero on my own."

The problems of directing a production and running a company while at the same time performing the lead role, in or out of the rain, are temporarily a thing of the past. *Much Ado* (with Janet McTeer as Beatrice) is directed by Matthew Warchus, the 26-year-old whose track record includes a magnificent *Life is a Dream* at the West Yorkshire Playhouse. The producer is Thelma Holt, who worked with Peter Hall on the last Shakespeare to play in the West End, the Dustin Hoffman *Merchant of Venice*.

Rylance says: "Her two ideas were, first, to encourage young directors and give a place to actors who didn't want to go to the big companies any more, yet who had some training in Shakespeare. Second, to bring Shakespeares to the West End that were not just star vehicles; more a rounded company, as you would get in the RSC and the National." Here again he is discovering

that calamities are sometimes beneficial. "That is something that occurs in *Much Ado*. Don John has nothing but destructive intentions, I suppose, but actually does as much if not more good than his brother, whose intentions are loving. Don Pedro has an incredible imaginative energy. He perceives that Benedict and Beatrice would be very good together, which no-one else perceives. He downright pushes Claudio into his marriage. He's Jove, really. In fact, he talks of himself as Jove at one point. There's always a plan, and it's always to do with uniting things, which is really the negative side of love, wanting to unite everything as quickly as possible."

"Whereas on the other pillar, of these two Pillars of Hercules brothers, you have the more intellectual impulses: to separate, to take things apart in order to look at them. The extreme of that is to isolate things. Don John relates himself to Saturn or Satan, but he's really to do with the intelligence, the side that limits the energy and makes it into form."

Rylance's voice is quiet, with an American lilt acquired in childhood when he went with his parents, both English teachers, to live in the US Midwest. As he talks of Jove, Saturn and allied matters his face lights up but there is still a wariness at speaking of such esoteric concerns. "Since playing Hamlet I

stumbled on some lecture courses on the hermetic and cabalistic teachings of the Renaissance, and they proved really illuminating to my work, to the Shakespeare plays particularly. They opened doors to the basic structures that playwrights of that time may have been working with, in their attempts to mirror nature as closely as possible through those old observations of nature, and how the more invisible workings of nature seem to lie at the heart of it."

After a slight pause, he suggests why it might be that Don Pedro and Don John, who are Spanish princes, are returning to Sicily from the East: why Claudio should come from Florence; and why the play should be set in Messina, where its famous Straits lie between Scylla and Charybdis.

But he offers these suggestions as his musings on the play. "It can be taken as you like it. If you want to say these details are there by chance, there is no way I could ever convince you. But I've come to feel that Shakespeare is a more conscious writer than some people give him credit for. He's not just an actor running things off for the printing press. The words seem to me even more carefully chosen. They shine more like a diamond. I think since reading about these things I find more beauty in the plays than I did before."

Is it restrictive that the richness of Shakespeare comes into view after such an esoteric approach? The proof will be in the performance. Rylance hopes one day to direct a *Cymbeline* suffused with Celtic imagery. But in the meantime the martial Beatrice is waiting in Messina to be coaxed into wedlock.

● *Much Ado About Nothing* is in preview and opens on Tuesday at the Queen's Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5041)



In out of the tempest: Mark Rylance stars in the first Shakespeare in Shaftesbury Avenue since 1955

RECORD REVIEWS: Peter Schreier relishes some little-known tunes; and Allen Lowe raises the spirits remembering past giants

Diversifying Schubert

In his continuing project to record every song Schubert wrote by the centenary of the composer's birth in 1977, Graham Johnson, as accompanist and devisor, has been opening ears and minds wide to undiscovered corners of his work. Now, in his 18th volume for Hyperion, (CDJ 33018) he has uncovered a new song cycle.

Well, nearly. In turning his attention to Schubert's settings of the psychotic, yet affable poet, Ernst Schulze, he was struck by how ten of the songs from the *Poetisches Tagebuch*, written within a single year, formed a stepping stone to Schubert's last great cycle, *Winterreise*. Johnson's response was to offer an ordering, and suggest a working title for the group: "Auf den wilden Wegen" ("On the Wild Paths") indicates the rejected lover's frame of mind.

Peter Schreier, whose turn has come in Johnson's great roll-call of Schubertians, sets off on the journey with his tenor in rude health. He and Johnson are as intuitively attentive to the blistering energy and pathos of these songs as Schubert himself was to the words

CLASSICAL

of the poet. Many of the songs are little known: the one plum is the much-loved "Im Frühling", with its soundscape of a spring sky reflected in the stream and, indeed, in Schreier's own cloudless voice.

The other motif in this volume is Schubert's skill in composing the strophic song: in other words, in avoiding setting verse after verse to exactly the same tune. No matter how refined the skill of the composer, Johnson rightly points out that our own loss of familiarity with the simplicity of folksong and hymnody makes essential the presence of an equally imaginative performer. Schreier is ideally cast.

Those familiar with his frequent performances of Schubert's *Die schöne Müllerin*, both live and on disc, will know that the tenor's performances are as much in the nature of a poetry reading as a song recital. Schreier's alertness to the scent and taste of the word, and his skill at making the prosody bite into the music, makes these exceptionally gripping performances.

His characteristic high tenor register scythes through rhyme and rhythm as the sickle flies in "Erntelied". Schubert's harvest-home, the four verses of evening stillness in "Abendlied" are kept alive through equally perceptive detail in the piano accompaniment. Schreier's Schubert follows hard on the heels of the previous Hyperion volume, Lucia Popp's recital of the composer's songs from the year 1816 (CDJ 33017). Again, Johnson's commenting and programming skills are much in evidence, and Popp's soprano in fine form. She spins a mobile line for "Lied", a haunting ballad sung by the watersprite, Undine, and moves on, in the same key, to Ossian's epic prose-poem, "Loda's Ghost" in which the Gaelic Píngal (he of the cave) rattles his spear at the Nordic ghost of Odin.

The dark, yearning mood of many of these songs suits the weight and legato qualities of Popp's mature voice; such neglected masterpieces as "Autumn Evening" are balanced with radiant May songs such as Holty's "Frühlingslied", and even a rare



Intuitive: Peter Schreier

comic ditty or two, including the "Klage um Ali Bey". Margaret Price has already made her Schubert contribution in Volume 15: now Hyperion has released an outstanding new recital of Schumann songs (CDA 66596). Price brings both vigour and the unique qualities of her indigo half-voice to the 12 *Kerner-Lieder*, and recreates the fragile ecstasy of the Op 39 *Liederkreis*.

HILARY FINCH

Masters taped

When musicians gather to pay homage to the giants of the past the results are often curiously soulless. Spontaneity is usually the first casualty. Players can reproduce celebrated compositions and solos note for note, with absolute precision, yet still allow the spirit of the original to slip through their fingers.

Allen Lowe's "modern portrait" of Louis Armstrong is undeniably ragged in places, but it makes compelling listening simply because it refuses to play by the normal rules. There are no slavish imitations on *Mental Strain At Dawn* (Stash STCD-563), only a collection of free spirits celebrating Armstrong's legacy.

The venture is underpinned by a puckish sense of humour. Lowe's nine-piece ensemble, the Jack Purvis Memorial Orchestra, is named after a colourful trumpeter who, aside from recording one of the earliest known tributes to Satchmo — "Coppin' Louis" — also branched out as a chef, pilot and

arms smuggler and was eventually sent to prison for robbery.

Some of the music on this live album (recorded at New York's Knitting Factory, a haven for avant-garde jazz and Dadaist rockers) is every bit as chaotic as Purvis's life. The programme veers from a conventional "Chinatown, My Chinatown" to mercifully brief passages of atonal improvisation. Logically, it should end in disaster. Somehow it works, give or take the occasional *longueur*.

Holding the project together is that marvellous trumpeter Doc Cheatham, who was a few weeks short of his 87th birthday at the time of this recording. One of the few surviving links with the 1920s, Cheatham still performs with extraordinary grace and economy. His deft phrasing contrasts with the sandblasting tenor saxophone of David Murray and the lyricism of the tenor revivalist Loren Schoenberg. To hear three such diverse improvisers on the same bandstand is a rare experience. Purists, beware.

CLIVE DAVIS

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Opera, and a classic conflict of interest

On the face of it, Garsington Opera should deserve everyone's whole-hearted support. But doubts creep in. When Britain's publicly subsidised opera companies — most of which reach out to embrace a cross-section of society — are struggling to make ends meet, do we really need any more Glyndebourne-style festivals competing with the established companies for diminishing corporate generosity...?

Hugh Canning — in *The Culture*, *The Sunday Times* tomorrow

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DAVID FLUSFEDER PREVIEW THE BEST OF NEXT WEEK'S TELEVISION

Enter Estonia, exit Eldorado

Camera of Courage:
Homeland
Tomorrow, Channel 4, 10.50pm

An astonishing film that manages to convince you that political nationalism is an uncomplicatedly good thing. It begins with grainy, black and white news footage: quick cuts of Baltic nationalists clashing with Soviet troops, tracer bullets, a shot of demonstrators, a rolled-up cigarette burning against a gun barrel.

Then it moves into the documentary it was designed to be before history got in the way. It shows the 1990 Latvian Folk Festival, attended by thousands of émigrés, as well as those who never went away, dressed in their colourful folk costumes and reds, their snowflake hats and fancy moustaches, singing bawdy songs of national pride and religious rebellion.

The film unfolds gradually, in interviews and elegiac music and long, loving shots of faces and landscape. There is no commentary and it does not need one. The old man who proudly says: "I'm the oldest living conductor in the Baltic... this century almost succeeded in wiping us out." The mother who kisses her returning son and knocks his glasses off by her embrace but is too happy crying to be able to put them back on straight.



An Exchange of Fire (see Schlock) is the week's oddity: an old-fashioned East-West spy thriller starring Ion Caramitru, former vice-president of Romania, as a Czech chancer. Will this catch on? Margaret Thatcher as a teacher at *Orange Hill*? Norman Lamont in *Brookside*? Highlights include *Homeland*, which makes a case for nationalism; an inside view of a dying town in *Roger and Me*; a history of the abstract cinema; and a look at some sad Irish peers.

Homeland is about survivors, and national and religious survival in the Baltic states of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. The states were occupied by the Tsar, the Germans and then the Russians, in the form of the USSR. Armoured cars and nuclear test sites took the place of villages. "We became actors," one Latvian says: "maybe that's why we survived." (They didn't all. Many died in Siberian labour camps; others died in action after being forcibly conscripted into the Soviet army.)

The director of this film and its two principal cameramen are now dead. The director, Juris Podnieks, died last year in a diving accident, after he had dedicated his documentary to Andris Slapins and Gvido Zvaigzne, who were killed by gunfire while shooting footage of Baltic nationalists clashing with Soviet troops. "Careful, Andris! Careful," film me, Andris says, as he lies dying of a bullet to the heart.

Countdown
Monday-Friday, Channel 4, 4.30pm

A new series begins of the word-scrambling and arithmetic parlour game which brought us the happy catchphrase, "Can I have a consonant please, Carol?"

It's a game for school swots, presided over by the amiable Richard Whitley, who is the grown-up school swot incarnate. Whitley is assisted by the brainy Carol Vorderman, a swot from the OED, and a guest actor (this week Martin Jarvis).

Eldorado
Monday, Wednesday, Friday, BBC1, 7pm

So the grand adventure is over... The far ship Euro-pudding came a cropper on the rocks of poor scripts, a messy mélange of clashing accents, some truly bad acting, and the pointless expense of setting a soap opera in Spain.

It certainly got a lot better after its dismal start, and this week's episodes are chockablock with action — a couple of deaths, quite a lot of happy-ever-after couplings, a lot of suave tanned Spaniards, some family togetherness.

Even the action plot — involving drugs and gangsters and murderers — of this last week of the series is rather neat. But, as Pilar says: "Eers too late."

Abstract Cinema

Monday, Channel 4, 11pm
This is a fascinating history of the attempts to create a type of cinema that is non-narrative — "visual music" seems to be the popular term for it.

Some of the stuff is silly, particularly the more recent, rather po-faced work (which comes with the appropriate po-faced commentary from its perpetrators), but some of it is magical.

Highlights include Harry Smith's jazzy explosive stuff with colours and geometric shapes from the 1940s, and an astonishing work by Len Lye.

Lye's 1979 film, *Particles in Space*, was made as he was dying of cancer. He etched on to black film, frame by frame, white dots which, with an urgent drum soundtrack, become the gaily dancing images of his dissolving cells.

It is fascinating to see how what was once the avant-garde has become incorporated into the mainstream: to become commonplace images of advertisements, pop videos, even Hollywood movies. But the avant-garde, moves solemnly on, now using computer technology to achieve what was once done by painting frame by frame.

Borderlines: Plight of the Earls

Thursday, BBC2, 7.30pm
Written and presented by Hector McDonnell, this poetic portrait of the peers of Ireland is wonderful. McDonnell himself is the younger brother of the 14th earl of Antrim. He looks a lot like Errol Flynn; he has a slight gone-to-seed charm, an easy way with this curious mix of historical dinosaurs and contemporary crazies, and has the engaging habit of bursting into giggles for no apparent reason.

The Irish peerage was founded by the Normans in the 12th century and, apart from brief periods of political power, has had very little point to it. The more sensible, present-day peers keep up their castles as monuments for the public. The battler ones are monuments themselves, apparently requiring more maintenance than they get.

There's John de Courcy, the Baron Kingsale, who looks like a regency fop and does his best to squeeze himself (in his ermine) and McDonnell on a



Michael Moore traces the fall of a motor town (*Roger and Me*, Thursday, Channel 4)

two-seater sofa at his home in Somerset. "I came back from Australia in '87 and I haven't done a great deal since," he says. "I'm a sort of general handyman... I don't make a living at the moment, because of the recession... I draw," he announces rather grandly, "what could be called the dole."

Or there's Lord Dunsany, pinching snuff and remembering his martyred ancestor, Oliver Plunkett, and telling of his Indian army pension and the time he met the Pope ("I even keep a coloured photograph of myself in conversation with the Pope").

McDonnell is good on the broad sweep of history, and particularly good on the finer points of detail, such as the fact that the hymn "All things bright and beautiful" was composed during the Irish potato famine and owes a lot to that fact.

He ends his programme with a poem: "Few will remember the sad Irish lord, and has done his best to rectify that, while showing that, in fact, there was no point to them in the first place."

Crime Limited

Thursday, BBC1, 8.30pm
Television programmers seem to think we can't get enough of these crime re-enactment programmes. Nick Ross, doing his suave solicitor bit, presents this new one. Its alleged aim is to focus on the travails of victims of crime, and to this end it covers two stories: one about a man who was under suspicion for his own daughter's murder, the other about a woman plagued by an obscene phone caller (who turned out to be a local bank manager, which confirms something I've always suspected).

In the middle, every programme will dramatise a landmark case in procedure. This one, which is inadvertently rather funny (did people in Victorian times really say things like "I was devastated" and "Who were you trying to kid?"), tells how the Appeal Court was born out of a particularly unlucky case of mistaken identity.

True Stories

Roger and Me
Thursday, Channel 4, 9pm
It's a shame that the True

Stories slot is entirely filled with bought-in documentaries from overseas, but they do tend to be very good and this is one of the best.

Flint, Michigan, was the birthplace of General Motors and its economy has been entirely dependent on that company ever since. The director of this film, Michael Moore, comes from a family that has always worked for GM, constructing cars, and his genuine, if baffled love for the place comes over very successfully.

The narrative thrust is Moore's attempts to snatch an interview with the head of GM, Roger Smith, and to try to take him to Flint to show him what the swathe of redundancies — 30,000 laid off in the course of the film — have done to the town. ("I followed a trail of three-martini lunches in pursuit of the chairman," Moore says).

Along the way Moore, a bulky, crumpled, bespectacled man who tends to wear a baseball cap and jeans, meets Fred the Evictor (one of the businessmen in town), Miss Michigan (destined to become

Miss America, the singer Pat Boone, a woman who raises and kills rabbits ("pets or meat" is her slogan), and Flint's most famous son, Bob Eubanks, the host of the American TV show *The New York Game* (who has some curious things to say about General Motors, Flint, and Jews).

The magazine *Money* declared Flint to be the worst place to live in the entire country, and Moore shows why, but he does it with charm and humour.

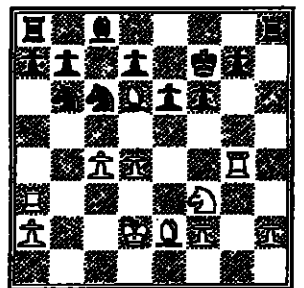
He shows a place with a curious sense of defiant optimism, despite everything. ("A lot of people say there's nothing to do in Flint," says one outraged citizen. "Hal! Hal, I say, Hal!" — and then points to the fact that the city councilors plan to re-create Flint as a tourist attraction, complete with a luxury hotel and Autoworld, "the world's largest indoor theme park". Both plans go bust within six months and, as one city official says sadly: "You can't make Palm Beach out of the Boverly." This is the programme of the week.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Hodgson - Gluckman, Lloyds Bank Masters, London 1992. Although black is undeveloped, his position appears solid enough. Nevertheless, white's next move forced a decisive gain. What was it?

Solution to last Saturday's competition: 2... Qh5 mate. The winners are: T. Healey, Tarpoley, J.A. Gunton, Droitwich: M. Reznier, London E10.



WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

EBAUCHE
a. A lewd party
b. A sketch
c. A river mouth

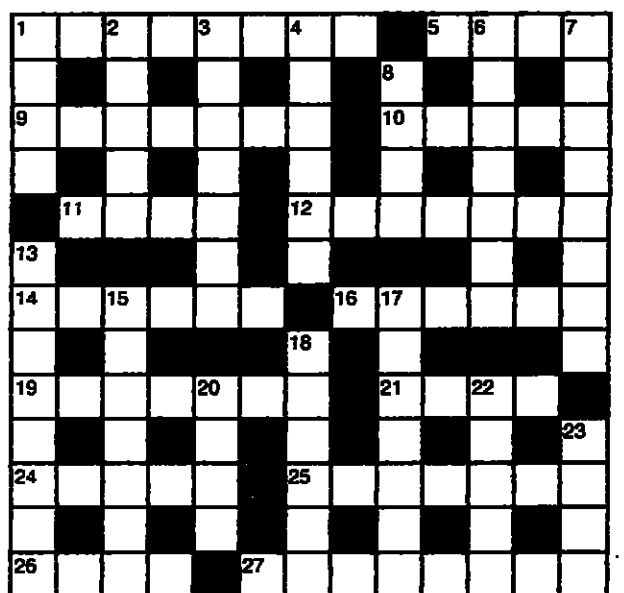
INGRESSANT
a. Heraldically circumscribed
b. Entering
c. A parasitic plant

VISGY
a. As rudely as a Visigoth
b. The little owl
c. A double mattock

QUARRION
a. A troubadour's metre
b. A parrot
c. A primitive trumpet

Answers on page 13

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 3138



ACROSS

- 1 Agra monument (3,5)
- 5 Brown seaweed (4)
- 9 Confound (7)
- 10 Drive back (5)
- 11 Early English Liberal (4)
- 12 Entering (7)
- 14 Insignificant person (6)
- 16 Chinese dumpling (3,3)
- 19 Mountaineer (7)
- 21 Cut (4)
- 24 Bay window (5)
- 25 Fiercely physical (7)
- 26 Quarrel (4)
- 27 Not reliable (8)

DOWN

- 1 Reservoir (4)
- 2 Bad luck bringer (5)
- 3 Asserted (7)
- 4 Australian (6)
- 6 Used bottles (7)
- 7 Multi-spouse practice (8)
- 8 Belt sword loop (4)
- 13 Render unconscious (5,3)
- 15 Writ server (7)
- 17 Social circle (2,5)
- 18 Make journey (6)
- 20 Invoice (4)
- 22 Encircling blockade (5)
- 23 Mast rope (4)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 3137

ACROSS: 1 Werewolf 7 Capon 8 Labyrinth 9 Sap 10 Ibis 11 Possum 13 School 14 Flower 19 Artful 20 Lasp 21 Mum 23 Frolicked 24 Chaff 25 Property

DOWN: 1 Wellies 2 Rubbish 3 Warm 4 London 5 Spasm 6 Snipe 7 Chisels 12 Poniiff 15 Whisker 16 Rapidly 17 Rumour 18 Smock 19 Amman 22 Wimp

CROSSWORD ENTHUSIASTS: The Times Concise Crosswords — Books 1 & 2 £5.25 each. Books 3 & 4 £4.25 each. The Times Jumbo Crosswords — Book 1 £4.99. Book 2 £5.99. Concise Book 1 £5.99. The Times Crosswords — Books 1, 7, 14, 15 & 16 £4.25 each. Books 2 to 12 £4.74 each. The Sunday Times Crosswords — Books 1 to 10 £4.74 each except Books 5, 9 and 11 £4.25 each. Concise Books 1 & 2 £4.25 each. Prices inc p&p (UK). Cheques to Alton Ltd, 51 Manor Lane, London SE15 5QH. Return delivery. Tel 081-652 4575 (24 hrs).

Lurve in a hot climate

Caitlin Moran,
feeling a little out
of things, decides
to fall in love



I FEEL like I did when my dog died every time I went for a walk I saw hundreds of dog owners with frisky, prancing, canine love-pets at their side. It's summer, it's hot, sticky and lustful, and when I walk down the streets I walk on my own. I haven't got a Bloke — that perennial fashion accessory which goes so well with summer dresses and big straw hats. At least, I haven't got one any more.

When the balmy haze of spring leapt upon us around April, I looked at my friends and noticed they had suddenly made as if for the Ark and gone into twos. Easily influenced by the birds shacking up in the trees, baby lambs flouncing around in the fields, and the unsold glut of Valentine cards still heaped up in Menzies, my coterie had gone kiss-chase crazy and started playing mixed double-beds.

And for a while I felt massively virtuous. I was an independent woman. I didn't need no man tacked to my side. I walked alone, my life was my own and my under-arm shaver remained free of blokey beard stubble. Whew, it felt good.

But then... but then slight insecurities started creeping in. I felt these odd urges to have a man in my house doing various woodwork-like things with a Black & Decker Workmate and a large amount of 2 by 4. Wandering around



Togetherness: "My coterie had gone kiss-chase crazy"

Marks & Spencer. I felt inexplicable loss when I put only one carton of Mini Chocolate Mousse in my basket. By rights there should be two. So I assuaged my instincts by buying two and eating both — however, I still felt empty inside. Well, I felt quite sick, but spiritually I felt empty.

And my friends didn't make it any better: they'd come to my house and wander around holding hands, go to the bathroom holding hands, drink tea holding hands. I assume they drove home holding hands. They'd have little giggly conversations which would dissolve into serene smiles as soon as I walked into the room. I caught Bernie and Laura dressing my car as a baby. Dammit, I felt let out.

The low point of insecurity came when I was watching a cornflakes advert, and burst

into tears of jealousy. The cornflakes couple looked so happy together. I wasn't together with anyone, unless shouting "Leave it on the doorstep" to the postman counted as a meaningful relationship.

So I decided to fall in love. Which was a bit tricky. All my friends were shackled up, and falling in love with my enemies didn't seem advisable. I wandered around for a bit, giving passing lads marks out of ten and wondering how they could cope with unbounded rivers of lust and devotion: with body-armor, seemed to be the consensus.

However, just as things seemed to be getting grim, I remembered Charlie — a good friend with a lot of spare time on his hands. I would fall in love with him: have a man in my house to help me worm the

cat, to go round to my friends' houses and hold hands in front of them.

For the first three weeks it was fantastic: we left each other notes in the bread bin and called each other slushy names. Charlie built two bookshelves and shaved off his sideburns with my Lady-Shave, which I found endearing. We washed up holding hands and had giggly fights that ended in bed.

But after a while, the fights began in bed, and continued in the hall, and ended up with insults being exchanged through the letterbox. The postman tried to arbitrate but we just told him to "leave it on the doorstep and shove off". Charlie said the weather was too hot to hold hands, he didn't like loud music, we were constantly ringing each other to arrange meeting times and places which were inconvenient to both of us. We were itching to be alone again... and Charlie was just itching because he was allergic to my cat. Oh woe.

It seemed that in order to live with someone you have to be so blindly, stupidly in love that the hideousness of someone drying their pants in the oven pales into ultra-insignificance. Charlie and I were just vaguely fond of each other. He threatened to set fire to my stereo if I ever sang REM songs in a high-pitched whine. Our love wasn't blind: it wasn't even vaguely myopic. We went down the pub, had a huge argument, and went home to sleep in separate beds. And when it felt good.

So now when I wander down the hot summer streets on my own, weaving my way through battalions of love-struck couples cooling over the wonderment of life, I think of the emptiness in my bed and thank God I'm not in love.

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